

From page 1

Gujjar, Bakerwal, Paharis to get reservation benefits as per Sharma Panel recommendations: Shah

Bakewals and Paharis will get the reservation benefits," he said.

The Home Minister said some people have tried to instigate the Gujjars and Bakewals in the name of ST status being given to Paharis but the people have foiled their design.

The Home Minister said tribal reservation has become possible in Jammu and Kashmir only after abrogation of Articles 35-A and 370.

He alleged that those who ruled

usurped by a few, but now everything is spent on people's welfare," he said.

"I want to appeal to you to free Jammu and Kashmir from the clutches of these three families and to make hands of Modi strong for betterment and welfare of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Shah did not take names of the three families but the indications were obvious towards Abdullahs, Mufits and Nehru-Gandhi.

He also said security situation

Centre. He said, "42,000 people lost their lives due to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Those who support terrorism sitting in the government were identified and action has been taken."

Those who used to call 'hartal' or pelt stones on security forces were cursed totally and now no one has courage to give any such call, he said. "Do you know why there is not a single stone-pelting incident in Kashmir now. Because stone-pelters were sitting in the

Jammu and Kashmir because if these two persons were not there, then Jammu and Kashmir could never have a permanent association with India."

Modi has done the work of taking the movement led by these two great personalities to the logical end, he said.

He said work on Rs 4,633 crore car scheme, Rs 2,793 crore Shahpur Kandi and Rs 11,908 crore Poonch power project will start soon.

The Union Home Minister said that to control corruption, the Anti-Corruption Bureau was created in Jammu and Kashmir, Whistleblower Act was implemented, complaint registration via mobile was initiated through U-MANG, 'SatarikNagrik' mobile application was launched, Vigilance offices have been opened and Electronic Vigilance Clearance System has also been installed.

He said that tourism is the biggest source of employment in Jammu and Kashmir and since January, 2022 till date, 1.62 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir, which is the highest in 75 years of Independence. He said that tourism has generated maximum employment in various regions of Jammu and Kashmir including Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu and the Valley.

Shah said that for 70 years the people had been demanding international flights from Jammu and Kashmir. Fulfilling this popular demand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started direct flight from Srinagar to Sharjah. Earlier there was no flight during the night from Srinagar and Jammu, Modi has started night flights from the city, he added.

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister said that earlier no one could have imagined a Medical College in Rajouri. "But, today by opening a medical college here, Modi has not only given an opportunity to the youth of this place to become doctors, but has also provided free healthcare to all the residents of this place, so that the people in the region would no longer have to go to Jammu for treatment. Along with this, Medical Colleges have also been opened in Kathua, Doda, Anantnag, Baramulla. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Government of India spent Rs. 139 crore for the Medical College in Rajouri only. With an expenditure of Rs. 480 crore the work of construction of Rajouri, Dhamnamandi and Surankot Road has also been furthered. Under the Border Area Development Execution Plan, the Prime Minister has allocated Rs. 21 crore and initiated 28 schemes. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, 3,167 km of roads have been constructed. The PM has also allocated Rs. 1,337 crore for the four laning of the Jammu-Poonch highway," Shah said.

He said that Modi has provided electricity for the first time to more than 20,000 houses in the hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir. After 75 years, electricity has reached homes in the region. Electricity has been ensured to 3.80 lakh houses across Jammu and Kashmir. A lot of work has been done under the Prime Minister's Development Package. These include 624 MW Kire HEP project, 540 MW Kar HEP project and ShahpurKundi Irrigation and Power Project.

Shah said that AIIMS, IIT, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Mass Communication etc. have been set up in Jammu. Medical colleges and GMC institutions have also been built here. "Many support groups, more than 4,500 youth clubs and many other plans have also been formed. About two lakh people have been provided homes in Jammu and Kashmir. Work has been done to ensure tap water to five lakh houses. Poshan Abhiyan, Matru Vandana Yojana and Health Mission have also been taken forward," Shah added.

The Union Home Minister said that the energy of Narendra Modi is boosted by the love of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said hills of Pir Panjal have been protected by the people for centuries, and their ancestors have shed their blood to protect the borders of India. "Today, like the rest of the country, the youth of Rajouri and Poonch should also be employed and entrepreneurship should be promoted in the region," he added.

Meanwhile, around two dozen delegations from Kashmir today met the Union Home Minister at Rajbawan in Srinagar soon after his arrival. The delegations that met the Union Home Minister include those of traders, fruit growers, politicians and the tourism players.

All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Association Chairman, Ajit Singh, Bilal Parry, a politician affiliated with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Civil Society member Farooq Renuz Shah, who is also a retired bureaucrat, Mehraj Din Rath, a political social activist from Sumbal Sonawari, Abrar Ahmad President of Batmaloo Trade Union, Javid Beigh, Politician (Budgam), Mubashir Ahmad, President Kashmir Pashmina Organization, Javed Burza (Hotelier), Sanjay Saraf LJP leader, Manzoor Pakhtoon, from TAFI, Sameer Ahmad Baktoo President of Eco Tourism, Rouf Tarambo President of Adventure Tourism, Nasir Shah Chairman Tourism Alliance, Sheikh Ashiq

counselling, sports, recreation and financial assistance by the government have brought a new revolution in youth empowerment in the last two years. J&K administration has taken many steps to create infrastructure, schemes and policies to speed up economic development, and to meet the aspirations of youth so they can contribute to society and achieve self-growth. The easily accessible online platforms act as an interface between trained and

president KCCI, Mirwaiz Central Kashmir Abdul Latif, President Fruit Growers Bashir Ahmad, Shahid Kamili President of Chamber of Industries, Singer Gulzar Ganie and a delegation of Apni party headed by Altaf Bukhari met visiting Union Home Minister at Raj Bhawan.

The delegations apprised Amit Shah about various issues being faced by them. The delegation of Batmaloo Trade Union highlighted the issues faced by the traders in Batmaloo after shifting of the Bus Stand to Parimpora and disallowing entry of taxis from districts to Batmaloo.

The delegation of Kashmir Pashmina Organization highlighted the issues faced by the people related to the trade. They demanded rehabilitation of the traders and workers.

The KCCI delegation raised the issues faced by the traders and including losses suffered by the traders due to COVID. They also raised the issue of fruit growers who are suffering losses.

The Chamber of Industries delegation highlighted the issues faced by the Fruit Growers delegation highlighted the recent losses faced by the fruit growers whose trucks were stuck on the highway for two weeks. They also raised the issue of low demand of Kashmiri apples and walnuts due to importing free fruit from Iran, United States and other countries to India.

The delegation of Apni Party led by its president Syed Altaf Bukhari included Ghulam Hassan Mir, Muhammad Ashraf Mir, Junaid Azim Mattu, Usman Majeed, Zafar Manhas, Rafi Ahmad Mir, and Dilawar Mir.

Hosabale meets Pracharks, MP from Ladakh

going to hold meeting with the Pracharks from the region to seek their point of view on prevailing situation in the Himalayan belt following various developments since according UT status to Ladakh.

Sources said that national general secretary of RSS held detailed deliberations on prevailing situation in the Himalayan region viz a viz recent Chinese interference in the area. He took a feedback on prevailing situation from the local leaders of Ladakh who informed Hosabale that people of Ladakh have fully realized that strengthening RSS is in the larger interests of Ladakh region and its people.

Sources said that Chinese interference in the area has figured in the meeting between Pracharks from Ladakh and RSS leader. The Ladakh Pracharks and political leaders extended invitation to Hosabale to visit Ladakh next year which he readily accepted.

Hosabale stressed on coordination among the Himalayan belt people and said that the greater coordination and cooperation among the people living in Himalayan belt can be in their larger interests and can prove a deterrent to country's detractors from across the borders.

Sources said protection of the ancient culture in Aryan belt in Ladakh also figured in the meeting and the RSS general secretary was of the opinion that thrust should be given to development activities in that belt to improve the socio economic condition of the masses there.

He stressed on construction of roads, schools and hospitals in this belt besides taking other public welfare schemes to the area so that the

Domestic help involved in Lohia's murder arrested

throat slit. Police said initial investigations did not point towards a terrorist angle.

Though a terror group, People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), claimed responsibility for the murder, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, who visited the crime scene, told reporters "these terror groups shamelessly own everything and anything".

"There was no clue which suggested involvement of any terrorist group. For the time being, the terror angle is ruled out but if, during investigation, such a thing comes to light, we will see to it," he said.

Termining the murder an unfortunate incident, the police chief said the force has got relevant clues from the scene which indicate that the accused had a history of aggressive behaviour.

He said the suspect had bolted the room from inside when the DGP (Prisons) was rubbing balm on his foot.

The domestic help repeatedly attacked him with a sharp object and even threw a burning pillow towards him in an apparent bid to set ablaze the body of the victim.

The 57-year-old Lohia, who was working as a cook at this house for the last six months," he said.

Meanwhile, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha today expressed shock and grief over the murder of H K Lohia, saying he served the country with great honour and dedication.

"Hemant Lohia was an outstanding Police officer and a great human being. He served the country with great honour & dedication. Shocked and deeply grieved at his sad demise. My condolences to the bereaved family and friends," the Lt Governor said in a tweet.

Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh, on behalf of all ranks of Jammu and Kashmir Police has also condoled and expressed grief over tragic, sad and unfortunate demise of H K Lohia.

In his condolence message the DGP has expressed his grief over the loss of a professional, hard-working and dedicated senior officer. He said that the officer was a very dear colleague and his services and contributions to the different organizations will always be remembered. The department and he himself are "deeply saddened by this huge loss", the DGP said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh has expressed grief over the sad demise of HK Lohia.

In his message, Singh termed the sad demise of HK Lohia as a great loss to the J&K Police. Besides being a professional police officer, he was also a great human being, he said. He expressed his deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Panchayats, ULBs empowered to take part in decision-making process

skilled workforce and industry requirements in J&K. Jammu and Kashmir administration is determined to provide quality education, skill training and better employment to the youth.

Jubilation among Paharis on promise of ST status by HM

At the same time, the Home Minister also promised that Paharis will be getting long awaited justice but the share of Gujjar-Bakerwals would not be diluted. "They should not have an iota of doubt about it. The Commission has already recommended ST status for Paharis and process would be completed shortly," the Home Minister promised the large crowd of Paharis at the Rajouri rally.

With the announcement of the Home Minister Amit Shah, jublations among the Paharis started in the entire Pir Panjal region including Rajouri, Poonch towns besides Kandi, Budhal, Kalakote, Darhal, Thannamandi, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Surankote, Mendhar and Mandi areas.

At many places, the Pahari people were seen celebrating the occasion as major victory and dancing on the drum beats. The sweets were also distributed to mark the occasion.

Not only this, the Pahari community people during late evening hours lit candles in markets of the major towns and also lighted their houses to express their happiness over the decision of the BJP Government to provide them much awaited justice. They expressed that after long struggle, ultimately the Modi Government has provided them some sigh of relief.

Shahbaz Khan, Pahari leader from Rajouri and chairman, Jammu Kashmir Pahari Peoples Movement while welcoming the announcement made by the Union Home Minister said that a wave of joy and happiness has gripped the entire Rajouri-Poonch belt. He said their struggle of over 30-35 years has brought the results today.

"It should have been done much earlier. This is the public announcement as yet made by the Home Minister but we have no doubt about his promise. We are quite hopeful that Paharis would definitely get justice from Modi Government," a jubilant Khan said.

Historic development in J&K during last 3 years: LG

He also referred to construction of bunkers for the border dwellers, National Highways and various road projects.

He said Rs 1000 crore worth National Highways and tunnels are under construction in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Forest rights were given to the people after a long wait," Sinha said. He also referred to a large number of works being done for the Tribal population saying such a number

of hostels were not constructed during last 50 years which will be made during next one and a half years. Rs 45 crore worth scholarships have been given to the Tribal students.

"As many as 100 Smart Schools were constructed last year and an equal number of schools will be constructed during next three months," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also referred to various other development projects and works in Jammu and Kashmir as well as Rajouri district.

Rs 3854.46 cr worth development works inaugurated/started

and Odina at Sumbal. He will inaugurate Urban Development projects in Kashmir division worth Rs 18.53 crore, 74 roads constructed at a cost of Rs 442.58 crore, 7 bridges worth Rs 23.40 crore and one building constructed at a cost of Rs 4.97 crore.

He will lay foundation stone of

Return to status quo ante needed in Ladakh: IAF chief

conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8. "The benchmark to set the situation on LAC is normal would be to return to status quo ante and complete withdrawal from all the points all along the LAC. That is the situation that we are looking for," he said, replying to a question.

His comments came days after Chinese envoy Sun Weidong claimed that the situation along the border is "overall stable" and the two sides have moved from the "emergency response" that followed the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020 to "normalised" management.

India has been insisting on the restoration of the status quo ante prior to the standoff in Eastern Ladakh.

Asked about reports of China's air incursions and military activities along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the issue was taken up with the Chinese military and that all the activities by the adversary are being monitored.

"As regards to the recent air violations or incursions or increased air activity by the Chinese, we continuously monitor it by continuously enhancing our air defence efforts there. We have increased the presence of radars," he said.

living standard of these people is improved besides this ancient race is protected.

The functioning of Sangh schools in the region was also reviewed and Hosabale was informed that presently Sangh runs 110 schools in the region. It was suggested that more such schools be opened in those areas which lack schooling facilities.

The leaders from the region threadbare discussed the developmental issues of the Ladakh region with RSS national general secretary and demanded that a separate airport be developed in Leh to boost

the tourism industry in the region.

Soon after his arrival, Hosabale straightaway drove to Ved Mandir Ambphalla where he will be staying all the three days of his visit. He, besides the Sangh leaders will also meet the leaders of its sister organizations including VHP, Bajrang Dal, Sanaskar Bharti, Vidya Bharti as well as BJP and hold separate meeting with them and take feedback of their functioning.

Sources said he will also seek a feedback from the local Pracharks with the improvement in ground situation in the UT after the annulling of Articles 370 and 35A.

Jubilation among Paharis on promise of ST status by HM

Rajouri and other towns in the region, Shahbaz said people distributed sweets and danced in the bazaars as they had already hired drum beaters apprehending good news for them in Amit Shah's rally.

BJP president, Ravinder Raina had already dropped a hint on the announcement of ST status to Paharis by Amit Shah. He said many people lit their houses and markets with candles. It appeared that people were celebrating Diwali festival in advance in Rajouri town tonight. Khan said similar reports were received from Darhal, Thannamandi, Nowshera etc.

Another Pahari leader, Tahir Manhas from Surankote town in Poonch said that people from his community are very happy with the announcement made by Home Minister Amit Shah at Rajouri today. He added that celebrations were witnessed at several places in Surankote area this evening. He said Paharis were never against the Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes. They are also living under same circumstances and topography and deserve same status as Gujjars are enjoying.

Manhas said Gujjar-Bakerwals were provided ST status about 40 years ago. Paharis should also get the same during that period. But due to political wrangles and lack of support, they failed to get justice for long. The then PM Atal Behari Vajpayee had declared in Kupwara rally to provide justice to the Paharis. But he could not become PM again due to lack of Paharis, otherwise, they would have achieved this much earlier.

"We struggled for 40 long years. Many political parties exploited Paharis as their vote bank. But we had only hope from the BJP for the reason that Late Vajpayee Sahib had assured us the justice. It is only public announcement by the Home Minister today. But people are fully confident that BJP does what it says. The Pahari people are satisfied and are convinced that they will ultimately get the ST status as soon as the process is completed by the Government.

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"As regards to the recent air violations or incursions or increased air activity by the Chinese, we continuously monitor it by continuously enhancing our air defence efforts there. We have increased the presence of radars," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari also said that the IAF has been preparing for all kinds of security challenges including "worst case scenario" and asserted that it is fully ready to face any situation.

"We continue to be actively deployed while at the same time expediting the operationalisation of recently induced systems like Rafale, Light Combat Aircraft and S-400 among others. Today, as I speak, the IAF continues to be ever vigilant and deployed," he said.(PTI)



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurating projects in Rajouri on Tuesday.

-Excelsior pic by Rahi Kapoor & Imran

Jammu and Kashmir for 70 years "wanted to keep Paharis crushed and pushed their voice. Now it is turn of Paharis to get their right in Jammu and Kashmir".

Coming down heavily on the Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said earlier just three political families used to rule the erstwhile State, but now power is with 30,000 people who were elected to Panchayats and District Councils through fair elections.

Referring to the possibility of holding Assembly elections, he said delimitation exercise was carried out before holding the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Delimitation was necessary before polls as earlier delimitation was not as per norms. Now, the delimitation has been done as per norms and there is increase in number of seats in hilly areas like Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar," he said.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised elections after abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

Modi had held local body polls and handed over the power to the 30,000 elected representatives of local bodies, he said.

Earlier power was with three families, 87 MLAs, 6 MPs. With abrogation of Articles 35-A and 370, all downtrodden societies including Paharis in Jammu and Kashmir are getting or going to get their rights, he said.

Shah said the development of Jammu and Kashmir is Modi's priority. "Earlier, all money sent by the Centre for development was

in Jammu and Kashmir is far better now than earlier due to the strong action taken against militants by the Modi Government.

"As a result, the death toll of security forces has come down from 1,200 every year to 136 this year," he said.

Shah said there were 4,766 terror incidents from 2006-2013 in Jammu and Kashmir during the Congress rule but the number has come down to 721 in 2019-22.

"Today's rally is a befitting reply to those who used to say that there would be blood bath if Article 370 is abrogated," he said.

The Home Minister said Modi snatched stones from the hands of stone pelters in Kashmir and handed them laptops and jobs and this has resulted an end to stone pelting.

"The decline in number of deaths of security forces shows that Jammu and Kashmir is in safe hands now," he said, adding the Modi Government has started strong drive against terrorism, stone pelters and Hurriyat Conference.

He also appreciated the Union Territory administration's decision to announce a holiday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the erstwhile ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, who signed the instrument of accession.

Shah also praised the people living in Rajouri and Poonch who are "standing like rocks for security of India" and said entire country salutes them.

"Paharis, Gujjars and Bakewals always stood for country whenever there was risk on India. Mountains of Rajouri and Poonch are guardians of LoC of India," he said.

Shah said 42,000 people lost their lives to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir over the years but security situation has improved now to such an extent that no one dares to call a hartal or indulge in stone-pelting.

Shah also said the Modi Government wants to end terrorism, corruption, bring all-round development and make Jammu and Kashmir number one in the country.

A zero tolerance policy has been adopted towards terrorism, ensuring complete control of the security forces over the situation, he said, while inaugurating or laying foundation stones of development projects at the Jammu Convention

WEATHER

JAMMU: Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE: Max: 35.2 Degree C, Min: 19.8 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY: RH-I (Morning): 72.0 per cent, RH-II (Evening): 59.0 per cent

Sunrise on Wednesday: 06:11 p.m., Sunset on Thursday: 06:30 a.m.

SRINAGAR: Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE: Max: 27.9 Degree C, Min: 9.6 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY: RH-I (Morning): 66.0 per cent, RH-II (Evening): 42.0 per cent

LEH: TEMPERATURE: Max: 26.2 Degree C, Min: 8.9 Degree C

CINEMA

INDIRA AUDI- 1. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI- 11:00 AM, 2.30 PM, 5.20 PM, 8.45 PM
INDIRA AUDI- 2. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI- 09:00 AM, 12.25 PM, 3.50 PM, 7.15 PM, 10.40 PM
INDIRA AUDI- 3. 1. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI- 10:00 AM, 2. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI- 1:15 PM, 3. BATCH 2013 (PUNJABI) - 04:30 PM, 4. YAAR MERA TITLIAAN WARGA (PUNJABI)- 07:25 PM, 5. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI - 09:45 PM.

APSARA AUDI- 1. VIKRAM VEDHA- 09:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 03:45 PM, 06:45 PM, 09:45 PM.
APSARA AUDI- 2. BABE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 03:30 PM, 06:30 PM, 09:30 PM.

HARI THEATRE: MA DA LADLA (PUNJABI) - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:30 PM.
PVR KC AUDI 1: 1. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI- AT- 10:45 AM, 2. MA DA LADLA (PUNJABI) - 02:15 PM, 3. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI - 05:45 PM, 4. BRAHMASTRA- HINDI- 09:15 PM.
PVR KC AUDI 2: BRAHMASTRA- HINDI- 09:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 04:00 PM, 07:30 PM, 11:00 PM.

WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: BABE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 10:30 AM, 01:30 PM, 04:30 PM, 07:30 PM, 10:25 PM
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: 1. VIKRAM VEDHA (U/A) - 09:00 AM, 12:15 PM, 03:30 PM, 06:45 PM, 10:00 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. MA DA LADLA (PUNJABI) 10:15 AM, 2. PONNIYIN SELAVAN - PART 1-HINDI (U/A) 12:45 PM, 3. BRAHMASTRA PART 1 - SHIVA 2D (U/A) - 04:00 PM, 4. MOH (PUNJABI) - 07:15 PM, 5. PONNIYIN SELAVAN - PART 1-HINDI (U/A) - 10:15

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