











# PM Modi applauds Srinagar voter turnout, says "Article 370 enabled aspirations of people"

New Delhi [India] : Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the people of the Srinagar parliamentary constituency for the "encouraging turnout" of 38 per cent, which is more than double the 14.43 pc polling in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In the first general election in the valley after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, polling took place in 2,135 polling stations on Monday across the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency containing assembly segments of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Budgam and Shopian districts. In his post on X, PM Modi said, "Would especially like to applaud the people of Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency for the encouraging turnout, significantly better than before. The abrogation of Article 370 has enabled the po-

tential and aspirations of the people to find full expression. Happening at the grassroots level, it is great for the people of J&K, in particular the youth." Srinagar voter turnout of 38 per cent in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls is the highest in several decades. There are 24 candidates in the fray as compared to 12 in the 2019 general election. The voter turnout in Srinagar was 14.43 per cent in 2019, 25.86 per cent in 2014, 25.55 per cent in 2009, 18.57 per cent in 2004, 11.93 per cent in 1999, 30.06 per cent in 1998, and 40.94 per cent in 1996. According to the Election Commission, voters from Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama, and Shopian showed up in record numbers to cast their votes in a show of faith and enthusiasm in the election

process. Chadoora, Ganderbal, Kangan, Khansahib and Shopian Assembly segments recorded more than 45 per cent voter turnout. "Polling personnel, including security personnel, worked tirelessly to ensure that an atmosphere of calm, peace and festivities welcomed voters at the polling stations," the ECI said. "More than 8,000 polling staff were on duty to cater to the over 17.47 lakh strong electorate. Command-and-Control centres have been working round the clock in Srinagar as well as Jammu since March 16, the date of announcement of general elections to ensure free, fair and inducement-free elections," it added. The commission has enabled Kashmiri migrant voters residing at various relief camps in Delhi, Jammu and Udhampur to also have the option

of voting in person at designated special polling stations or using postal ballot. 21 special polling stations were established at Jammu, one at Udhampur and four at Delhi. In 2019, polling for the Lok Sabha was held for six seats in Jammu and Kashmir. However, following the abrogation of Article 370, which resulted in the split of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, there is no longer a separate Lok Sabha constituency for Ladakh. Voting for the Udhampur and Jammu seats was concluded on April 19 and 26 respectively while in Srinagar voting was done on May 13. Baramulla seat will vote on May 20 while the Anantnag-Rajouri seat on May 25.

## In SC Hearing On Patanjali Misleading Ads Case, A Rare Praise For Baba Ramdev



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its order on a contempt petition filed against Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna in the Patanjali Misleading Ads case. The top court also exempted both the promoters of Patanjali Ayurved from personal appearances in the case until the judgement is pronounced. After the court reserved its order in the case, Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna were allowed to leave the courtroom after which the bench praised Ramdev Babu. "Baba Ramdev has a lot of Astha, use it in a positive way so that people will look up to you..major contribution made by Ramdev and his team in promoting yoga." The Supreme Court granted Patanjali more time to submit affidavits detailing the actions taken to recall advertisements for company products, for which licenses have been suspended, as well as for recalling medicines. The court was hearing a petition filed by the IMA, which accuses Patanjali Ayurved and its founders of conducting a smear campaign against the COVID-19 vaccination drive and modern medicine. The Supreme Court then moved on to hear a contempt case against the IMA President, Dr RV Asokan, regarding an interview where he allegedly criticised the Court for "pointing fingers" during a previous hearing of the case. Earlier the court stated, "You (IMA) say other side (Patanjali Ayurved) is misleading, running your medicine down - but what were you doing?! ... Let us make it clear, this court is not expecting any pats on the back. This court has also received its share of brickbats. We also have broad shoulders.

What Is The Case? The case against Patanjali began in November last year when the Supreme Court while hearing a petition filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), cautioned Patanjali Ayurved against making "false and misleading" claims in advertisements about its medicines. Earlier in February, the apex court directed Patanjali to stop all electronic and print advertisements of its medicines giving "misleading information" with immediate effect. In response, Ramdev's legal counsel expressed their willingness for both Ramdev and Balakrishna to personally apologize in court. "We are prepared to apologize and accept any repercussions from the court," conveyed Ramdev's lawyer with folded hands. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) had referred to several advertisements which allegedly projected the allopathy and the doctors in a poor light, saying that "disparaging" statements have also been made by firms, engaged in the production of ayurvedic medicines, to mislead the general public.

## Supriya Sule Alleges CCTV Camera Of Strong Room Switched Off For 45 Minutes; Poll Officer Responds

Supriya Sule EVM CCTV News: The CCTV cameras of the strong room where the Electronic Voting Machines were stored in Baramati Lok Sabha seat went off the air for 45 minutes, alleged the senior Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader Supriya Sule on Monday. Urging the Election Commission to take immediate stock of the situation, Supriya alleged that no satisfactory reply was provided by the concerned authorities. While the NCP candidate at the seat cried foul, the returning officer at the constituency, Kavita Dwivedi, refuted her claims and said that only the "display unit was temporarily closed". However, no explanation has been provided by the CEO for the temporary closure. The Election Returning Officer posted a clarification on the microblogging site X, saying that "the data is intact and there is no interruption in the CCTV footage." "It is hereby brought to knowledge that the

CCTV System was functional and that only the display on the display unit was unavailable. The data is intact and there is no interruption in the CCTV footage. All instructions regarding the backup as per protocols have been given to the agency. The same has been verified by viewing the CCTV footage," the poll officer posted. Calling the closure of the CCTV 'suspicious', Sule demanded stern action by the EC against the responsible behind this laxity. "It is suspicious that the CCTV is switched off where a very important thing like EVM is kept. Also, this is a big laxity. When the election representatives contacted the concerned authorities and administration, no satisfactory answers were received. Apart from this, the technician is also not available at the said place," English translation of her Marathi post on X read. "Also our representatives are not allowed to inspect the EVM status. This is very serious. The Election Com-



mission should immediately take notice of this and announce the reasons why the CCTV was closed. Apart from this, appropriate action should be taken against those responsible for the incident," Sule said. Baramati witnessed a significant showdown between members of the Pawar family on May 7. Supriya Sule, the daughter of NCP stalwart Sharad Pawar, contested against her sister-in-law, Sunetra Pawar, who is married to Supriya's cousin and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister, Ajit Pawar.

## "If you come and do something here..."

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India] : Reminding "non-response" to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India gave a 'clear message' against terrorism with the surgical strike and airstrikes after the terror attacks in Uri and Pulwama. He said that the world was sympathetic with India after 26/11 but also wanted New Delhi not to create any 'tensions' with Islamabad. The EAM added that it was because India had not worked to "delegitimize terrorism" and convince the world that it is a danger for everyone globally. Jaishankar was speaking at an event titled 'India's Vishwabandhu Approach to Global Relations' at the Constitution Club in Mumbai on Monday. "When 26/11 happened you all know what our response was or to be very frank, what our non-response was. But you also know that our response was very different in Uri and Balakot. And there was a reason. Because Uri was across the Line of Control and Balakot was across the international boundary," Jaishankar said addressing the event. "So the message was, if you come and do something here, you may be across the LoC, you may be across the international boundary- we will still come and get you there," he added. A group of heavily armed terrorists from the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba unleashed mayhem on the streets of Mumbai on November 26, 2008, spraying bullets on unarmed civilians at multiple key public installations in the city.



The attacks left over 166 dead, including foreigners, and over 300 injured. India carried out a surgical strike against terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to an attack at an army base in Uri, Kashmir in 2016. In 2019, after the Pulwama attack -- which killed over 40 Indian soldiers -- the Indian Air Force carried out an airstrike against Pakistani terror camps in Balakot. The EAM further said that India had not lobbied the world against terrorism and couldn't make them understand that anyone can be the victim of the menace. "Now, I want you to think for a moment, about the reaction of the world. When 26/11 happened, everybody said yes very bad, we sympathize with you...but do not create tensions with Pakistan. Because we had not lobbied the world, we had not made the world understand what terrorism is, it is a danger for all...Today, it is my turn, tomorrow it will be yours," the EAM said. Further elaborating why the world understood India's response in Uri and

Balakot but was 'tense' after the 26/11 attacks, Jaishankar said being a 'Vishwa Bandhu' a country can carry the world with its viewpoint. "By the time from 2008, we had reached 2016 actually. We did Uri (surgical strikes) and the world said the Indians did what the Indians had to do. We did Balakot (Air strikes)...- Why was it that the world was understanding about Uri and Balakot, but the world was so tense, or I would say, indifferent on 26/11 because a lot of people sympathized with us, but stopped there," the EAM said. "And the reason is that we had not made that effort to delegitimize terrorism, to convince the world...Being Vishwa Bandhu, if you are able to carry the world with your viewpoint, you are that much stronger, you have that ability," he added. Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar also attended an interaction with investors, students, and social media influencers, wherein he emphasized that India needs a "strong and experienced" government. "A very productive day in Mumbai, interacting with investors, social media influencers, students and intellectuals. Stressed that in a turbulent and uncertain world, India needs a strong and experienced Government with the judgement and confidence to take the right calls. The last 10 years have laid the foundation for Viksit Bharat. Our choices now will ensure that we will progress towards that goal by 2047," Jaishankar said in a social media post on X.



# BJP counts losses in shaky south despite PM Modi's unparalleled campaign blitz

On a sultry day in the middle of March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hopped from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana addressing poll rallies as part of an unparalleled campaign blitz in the south. The mission was aimed at improving the BJP's numbers in the south, which had largely ignored the party even in 2019 when it crossed the 300 mark in the Lok Sabha. The BJP had then drawn a blank across the region, barring Karnataka where it won 25 of 28 seats and Telangana where it bagged four of 17. However, neither Modi nor the BJP was willing to sit back and leave the south to tradition, Dravidian politics and the progressive outlook that helped the region shun the Sangh parivar. Kickstarting his Kerala campaign from the Pathanamthitta Lok Sabha constituency where the BJP fielded Anil K. Antony, son of Congress stalwart and former defence minister A.K. Antony, Modi had proclaimed that the Left-ruled state would give the party "double digits". Recently Amit Shah predicted a big win in the south, especially in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra



Pradesh - where the party didn't win a single seat in 2019 - and an improved performance in Karnataka and Telangana. That the south, barring Karnataka, has never been saffron-friendly has come to haunt the BJP which seeks to better the 2019 tally of 29 of 131 seats from the region. But the BJP is likely to lose a number of seats in Karnataka where the ruling Congress appears to have made decent gains. A pre-poll survey by eedina.com, a little-known Kannada news portal, that made a stunning prediction of the Congress winning 132-140 seats in last year's Assembly polls when it won 136 seats, has made another startling

assessment. According to its survey, the Congress stands to win 13-18 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats, while the BJP-JDS combine could win 10-13 seats. If this turns out to be right, it means a huge loss for the BJP. Telangana chief minister A. Revanth Reddy predicted a huge slump for the BJP. "They will get hardly 12-13 seats in the south. The remaining seats will go to INDIA." The BJP did everything in its power to open its account in Kerala, which has become a prestige issue for the Prime Minister who predicted a double-digit gain this time. The party unleashed all it could in Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur - the two segments with considerable Hindu population. Minister of state for electronics and skill development Rajeev Chandrashekar was fielded against Shashi Tharoor in Thiruvananthapuram, while actor and former Rajya Sabha member Suresh Gopi contested from Thrissur. A confident Tharoor, who is eyeing a fourth consecutive term, was sure that the Congress and its allies would win all 20 seats in Kerala, 39 in Tamil Nadu and the lone seat in Puducherry. Noted

academic and socio-political commentator M.N. Karassery didn't sound upbeat on the BJP's prospects in Kerala. "They are counting on Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta and Thrissur. But I don't see them winning any. People don't even know Rajeev Chandrashekar in Thiruvananthapuram, while Tharoor is a three-time MP who has done well and is an accomplished literary figure. There is no chance for Anil in Pathanamthitta, while Gopi has reduced his own stature by clownish behaviour without realising the difference between cinema and politics," he told this newspaper. The BJP is likely to do better than four seats in Telangana and gain a few in Andhra Pradesh where it is in alliance with the Telugu Desam Party and the Jana Sena Party, apart from Karnataka. The ruling YSR Congress that won 22 of 25 seats in Andhra Pradesh in 2019 is faced with a tough challenge from the NDA that's likely to do better than the three won by the TDP last time. For now, the BJP is still that north Indian party for most southerners who see red in saffron.

## Why Eating Common Quail Meat Can Cost You Your Life



There are many beautiful birds on earth. But do you know some of them are very dangerous? One such bird looks harmless at first sight but is very dangerous. All must have seen it often seen on the parapets and balconies of your homes. Can you guess the bird? It is none other than a quail. It is found in many places in India and around the world. But among these, one species is considered quite poisonous. It is called the common quail. The common quail is a type of wild bird that lives on the ground. They cannot fly for very long distances and live in nests. Their meat is considered to be very tasty, which is why people like to hunt them. These birds are mostly seen in all of Europe, North Africa, and West Asia. Although this bird looks innocent, it is said to be very poisonous and harmful. According to the reports, since ancient times, people have been consuming quail, but its consumption is considered to be very harmful to health. Its subspecies (*Coturnix coturnix*) is said to be very poisonous to humans. Actually, during winter migration, quail like to eat certain plants, which are said to be poisonous. This poison remains in their body and if it reaches a human body, it can make one sick. According to scientists, there is a risk of rhabdomyolysis due to this poison. It is a condition that causes muscles to break down and further leads to muscle death which causes unbearable pain. There are also symptoms like vomiting and nausea, which can sometimes lead to kidney failure. This could even prove to be fatal at times. This poison dissolves in body fat and can be fatal. A few days ago, a piece of news came into the limelight where the common quail poison spread to a 12-year-old child, and after staying in the ICU for 8 days, he somehow managed to survive.

## Ex-Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi dies, was diagnosed with cancer

Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi passed away at the age of 72 on Monday. Sushil Kumar Modi had in April this year revealed that he was suffering from cancer and that he would not contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections due to his health condition. The mortal remains of the former Rajya Sabha MP will be brought to his residence in Patna's Rajendra Nagar area tomorrow (May 14) and last rites will be performed later in the day. Several BJP leaders, including the incumbent Bihar deputy chief ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, expressed grief and extended their condolences to Sushil Kumar Modi's bereaved family. "Heartfelt tribute to former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and former Rajya Sabha MP Shri Sushil Kumar Modi ji on his demise. This is an irreparable loss for Bihar BJP. Om Shanti Shanti," Samrat Choudhary posted on X. "Sushil Modi ji is no more among us. This is an irreparable loss for the entire BJP family as well as workers like me. He will always be remem-

bered for his organisation skills, administrative understanding and his deep knowledge on social political issues. May God grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the family in this hour of grief," Vijay Kumar Sinha tweeted. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav also extended his condolences on X and said, "I am extremely saddened to hear the news of the untimely demise of the former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, our guardian, struggling and hardworking leader respected Shri Sushil Kumar Modi ji. May God grant a place to the departed soul in his lotus feet and provide strength to the family and well-wishers in this hour of grief. Om Shanti Om". Born on January 5, 1952, Sushil Kumar Modi began his political journey as a student activist at Patna University, where he served as the general secretary of the Students' Union in 1973. Over his three-decade-long political career, Sushil Modi held various positions, including MLA, MLC, and member of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He served as the Deputy Chief Minis-



ter of Bihar from 2005 to 2013 and again from 2017 to 2020. The veteran politician was elected as an MLA for the first time in 1990 from the Patna Central constituency. He also served as the leader of the opposition in the state assembly from 1996 to 2004. In 2004, Sushil Modi transitioned to national politics by winning a seat in the Lok Sabha from Bhagalpur. However, in 2005, he stepped down from his Lok Sabha post to join the legislative council and assume the role of Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar.

## Eying for third term, PM Modi files nomination from Varanasi

In a significant political journey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday (May 14) filed his nomination from Varanasi for the Lok Sabha elections 2024, seeking a third term from the historic constituency. The nomination filing followed a grand roadshow the day before, covering a 6-km stretch, where PM Modi pledged to usher in more development for the city if re-elected. Pandit Ganeshwar Shastri, Baijnath Patel, Lalchand Kushwaha, Sanjay Sonkar are the four proposers of PM Modi for Varanasi Lok Sabha nomination. Expressing his emotions and gratitude, PM Modi had said, "I am overwhelmed and emotional! I did not even realize how 10 years passed under the shade of your affection. I had said that Maa Ganga had called me. Aaj Maa Ganga ne mujhe god le liya hai (today Maa Ganga has adopted me)." In 2014, Varanasi had witnessed a historic



clash when PM Modi contested against AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, solidified its position as a BJP stronghold with PM Modi's resounding victory, securing over 3 lakh votes. The constituency, comprising five assembly seats, has been a battleground for the BJP and Congress over the years. With a demographic makeup of 75% Hindus, 20% Muslims, and 5% other religions, Varanasi has remained a crucial political arena. The urban-rural divide, with

65% urban and 35% rural population, adds complexity to its political landscape. Reflecting on his past terms and outlining future plans, PM Modi said, "During the period of the Congress and INDI alliance, this city of spirituality and faith was always neglected, but we are working day and night with the resolution of building a divine and grand Kashi." "As a servant of the people, it has always been my endeavor to make the lives of the people of Kashi easier. I am confident that a developed Varanasi will make an invaluable contribution to fulfilling the resolution of a developed India along with a developed Uttar Pradesh," he added. Asserting his commitment to the city and its heritage, PM Modi concluded, "With the blessings of Baba Vishwanath, I will always remain dedicated to the service of his Kashi. Jai Baba Vishwanath!"

