

“Playing With Fire”: J&K Parties Slam BJP Manifesto On Article 370, 35A

Agency
New Delhi April 9,

Political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir have reacted sharply to the BJP's manifesto where the party has reiterated its stand on scrapping Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution that grants special status to the state. The contentious issue has, in the past as well, evoked similar reactions from the state's leaders.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in a scathing response, said that any attempt to repeal the special status would have severe repercussions in the region.

“So my warning to the BJP is to stop playing with fire. Jammu and Kashmir is already sitting on a powder keg. If the BJP does not stop making such statements and give up such intentions (about Article 370), it will not only burn the state but the entire region,” the Peoples Democratic Party president said.

A petition filed in the Delhi High Court has sought a directive to the Election Commission banning National Conference leaders Farooq and Omar Abdullah as well as Ms Mufti from contesting the national elections, starting Thursday. The petitioner said the statements of these leaders are “against the Indian constitution”. Ms Mufti responded to this by saying: “Why waste time in court? Wait for the BJP to scrap Article 370. It will automatically debar us from fighting elections as the Indian Constitution won't be applicable to the state anymore.”

Article 35A, made a part of the constitution by a 1954 presidential order, defines the term “permanent resident” and gives special rights and privileges to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and bars outsiders from acquiring immovable property there. Article 370 is an extension of Article 35A, which allows the state its own constitution, flag and the right to handle its own laws except on matters that impact national security.

Ms Mufti, a former alliance partner of the BJP, has issued multiple warnings to the centre each time the BJP broached the subject. National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah, her political rival in the state, echoed this by saying that the abrogation of Article 370 would pave the way for the state to gain “freedom”. “If you do that (repeal Article 370), the accession will also not stand. I think this is the wish of Almighty, we will get freedom from them,” he said.

His son, Omar Abdullah, took a swipe at State Governor Satya Pal Malik, who had dispelled the concerns of political parties over the

issue. “Recently, the J&K governor claimed there was no threat to Art 370 & 35A and that parties like mine were only using them to drum up fear in the elections. I hope his colleagues in the BJP send him a copy of their manifesto,” he tweeted.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh hit back at the leaders, citing a controversial statement by Omar Abdullah that his party will bring back a separate Prime Minister and President for Jammu and Kashmir—something that the state had bargained for in 1947. “If someone talks about a separate Prime Minister for Jammu and Kashmir, we will have no option other than to abolish Article 370 and Article 35A,” Mr Singh was quoted as saying by news agency PTI. The BJP, in its manifesto, said: “We reiterate our position since the time of the Jan Sangh to the abrogation of Article 370. We are committed to annulling Article 35A of the Constitution of India as the provision is discriminatory against non-permanent residents and women of Jammu and Kashmir. We believe that Article 35A is an obstacle in the development of the state”.

Rajnath on Article 370, 35A

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Senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh has said there will be no option with the government other than abolishing articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution related to special status to Jammu and Kashmir if any

party or leader talks about having a separate Prime Minister for the state.

Mr Singh addressed a rally at Suchetgah in Jammu in favour of party candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma yesterday. Mr Singh asked the Congress to clarify its stand on such demands.

Military Captain, Squadron Killed by AA Rebels in N. Rakhine

Courtesy : MOEMYINT,
IRRAWADDY
BURMA APR 9

YANGON — A Myanmar military, or Tatmadaw, captain and his entire squad were killed during a clash with troops of the Arakan Army (AA) in a remote area of northern Rakhine State's Buthidaung Township on Friday, according to military sources and relatives of the victims.

Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun of the Office of the Commander in Chief acknowledged that Capt. Chit Ko Ko was killed along with some other troops in a battle with the AA on Friday. He declined to provide a total death toll of army troops.

A long-time friend of Capt. Chit Ko Ko, Saw Lwin Saw, wrote a post on his Facebook page on Friday claiming that the crew comprised more than 20 soldiers led by Capt. Chit Ko Ko was ordered by their commander to attack AA fighters in Buthidaung's War Net Yone region situated near the border with Bangladesh on Friday. The squad was unexpectedly surrounded on every side by AA rebels. In the fighting, his friend was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) and afterwards, other government troops were not able to retrieve his body, he said.

Saw Lwin Saw said that his friend had been on duty in Monywa,

Sagaing Region, but was recently summoned for reinforcement to Ann Township, Rakhine State where the military's Western Command has their base. Some Facebook users took to the social media platform to criticize Capt. Chit Ko Ko's senior commander for failing to supply additional troops while his crew was surrounded.

The Arakan Army (AA) announced battle updates via its website on Saturday, reporting that its fighters had fought with about 150 military troops from the Ann-based Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 373 in the War Net Yone region, close to the border on Friday and that about 12 government soldiers were killed. The AA posted photos a number of pieces of military equipment which they seized from LIB No.373 troops, including a 9 mm pistol which is commonly used by high-ranking officers in the Myanmar military, a 60 mm mortar, four artillery shells, seven assault rifles, one remote control jammer, one RPG more than one thousand 5.56 ammunition rounds and other military accessories.

According to the AA announcement, it clashed with government troops in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U townships in the first week of April. It stated that fighting in Kyauktaw Township's Phauk Pe mountain

range killed at least three government soldiers on Friday and up to 10 in battles on Saturday. Last month, the President's Office spokesperson U Zaw Htay told reporters in Naypyitaw that at least 12 civilians have been killed in battles between the military and the AA within three months.

Last Wednesday, a military helicopter attack at Buthidaung Township's Saidin waterfall, where several hundred Rohingya were harvesting bamboo and making rafts, killed at least six and wounded more than 10 Rohingya.

U Zaw Htay said the government military had killed a total of 58 AA fighters while the AA and other Arakanese civil society groups pointed out that most of the victims were shot dead by government troops in their villages without armed engagement and that 27 police had been killed but he refused to answer questions on the total death toll of military troops. Between December 2018 and April 2019, the army admitted three times that high ranking officers, including majors and captains, were shot dead by the AA without elaborating on the specific number of deaths.

In March, the AA seized a temporary tactical base belonging to the military in Buthidaung Township which borders Chin State's Paletwa Township.

Meghalaya's EVM awareness team reach remote Double Decker Living Root Bridges in Nongriat

Agency
Shillong April 09,

As Meghalaya readies itself for the Lok Sabha Polls to be held on April 11, the Election Commission is going all out to reach every nook and corner of the state to create EVM awareness.

In a recent information shared by the Meghalaya Chief electoral Officer FR Kharkongor, he informed that the EVM awareness teams traversed towards the polling stations across the famous Double Decker Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya at Nongriat polling station under Shillong Parliamentary Constituency. Find the glimpses below:

Living up to the motto of “No voter to be left behind”, the Meghalaya



Election Commission had also been busy preparing the state's two polling stations accessible solely by boats and one situated very close to the international border with Bangladesh— The Kalatek,

Kamsing and Dalia polling stations for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election 2019.

The state is set to go to polls on April 11 for two Lok Sabha seats— Shillong and Tura.

CBDT detects unaccounted cash collection racket of Rs 281 crore in Madhya Pradesh

Agency
New Delhi April 9,

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has said searches in Madhya Pradesh by Delhi Directorate of Income Tax have detected widespread and well-organised racket for the collection of unaccounted cash of about 281 crore rupees through various persons. The department has also detected a trail of 20 crore rupees suspect

cash allegedly being moved to the headquarters of a major political party in Delhi from the house of an important person. The CBDT statement, however, neither identified the political party nor the senior functionary. It added that records of collection and disbursement of cash in the form of hand-written diaries, computer files and excel sheets were found and seized and it corroborates the above findings. The CBDT said several

unaccounted and benami properties at posh locations in Delhi have also been detected. It said these instances of violations of the model code of conduct are being brought to the notice of the Election Commission.

The searches, on charges of alleged tax evasion and hawala transactions during the poll season, continued yesterday at various premises in Bhopal, Indore, Goa, Delhi and the national capital region.

Chassad Battalion Saves Lives In Kamjong, Distributes Sports Kit



IT News
Imphal April 9,

Chassad Battalion of 10 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) saved the life of accident victims on Yesterday, April 2019, a vehicle carrying 11 persons of Maokot village skidded

off the road and fell into a ditch near Nampam Lok bridge below Chattrik Khunao, close to Indo Myanmar border. The deadly accident claimed the life of one lady on the spot while many others were seriously injured. Medical team of Chassad Battalion immediately got the injured to Unit Hospital with the help of villagers

and treated the injured including small children.

Critical patients were further evacuated to Imphal. The quick response by Assam Rifles saved the lives of injured, many of whom were very serious.

In order to consolidate the peace initiative in Sajik valley and in sync with the central Government initiative of Khelo India, Sajik Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) distributed sports kit to ten villages of Chakpikarong Sub district of Chandel District including Aishi, Aigejang, Kathung, Phoikon, P Salem, S Mualnum and Sajik Tampak K Bethel, T Jangnum and Bongpijang Village.

The Sajik Battalion, in its effort to promote sports in the area provided sports kit under Assam Rifles Civic Action Programme as a gesture to motivate the youth. The efforts taken by the Battalion for organizing the above event and the assistance being provided for furthering sports culture in the area was deeply appreciated by all the villages.

Assam rifles organises health care campaign to mark ‘world health day’

IT News
Imphal April 9,

26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) has been at the forefront in providing a helping hand to the local villagers. On 07 April 2019, to commemorate ‘World Health Day’, lectures were organized at various locations of Chandel, Moreh, Moltuk and Tengnoupal to involve a larger audience even in remote locations along the border villages. All the Medical Officers of under command units delivered a lecture in local language and in Hindi and elucidated the causes of old age diseases and lifestyle disease like obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart and kidney problems. Preventive measures to maintain good health especially in grown-ups were suggested. Participants were asked to maintain a healthy day to day life style along with routine exercise/yoga and good food habits to cope up with the old age and lifestyle related diseases. The attendees were greatly benefited



by the information pertaining to health on the occasion of ‘World Health Day’. A total of 547 men, 375 women, and 221 children benefitted from this initiative. The continuous and

relentless efforts of the Sector towards the welfare of the locals have been greatly appreciated by them and has greatly improved the level of interaction between the Security Force and villagers.