2015 tally

BJP's Massive Campaign Falls Flat

Press Trust Of India

paign in the national capital that Shah and party president J saw 6,500 public meetings and the well-oiled election machin- dressed 68 public meetings ery of the party failed to create and took part in 24 roadshows. an impact as it suffered a drubbing in the Delhi Assembly polls on Tuesday. 70 Assembly segments in the national capital, Shah criss-

The Bharatiya Janata Party crossed 60. (BJP), the campaign of which was focussed more on issues related to nationalism and Shaeight seats, five more than its pani (Gujarat), Jairam Thakur

The BJP campaign was led P Nadda. Together, they ad-While Nadda covered all the

Besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two rallies, the held 26 meetings, Defence BIP-led NDA had fielded seven Minister Rajnath Singh adheen Bagh, failed to find sup- chief ministers -- Yogi Aditya- dressed 12 rallies and Transport among voters. It bagged nath (Uttar Pradesh), Vijay Ru- port Minister Nitin Gadkari

(Himachal Pradesh), Biren (Manipur), Trivendra Singh **NEW DELHI:** BJP's massive cam- by Union Home Minister Amit Singh Rawat (Uttarakhand), Sarbananda Sonowal (Assam) held roadshows and town halls.

and Nitish Kumar (Bihar). Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra) and Shivraj Singh Chauhan Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi (Madhya Pradesh) -- also campaigned for the BJP. Women and Child Devel-

opment Minister Smriti Irani held 10 meetings.

On the other hand, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressed 200 public meetings,

The Congress''s campaign Two former chief ministers -- failed to take off initially. But in the final lap, party leaders Vadra, former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel campaigned for it. However, it failed to revive the poll prospects of the grand old party.

Kanhaiya Kumar's Convoy **Attacked Again In Bihar**

Press Trust Of India

GAYA: CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar's convoy was attacked again in Bihar on Tuesday and a Congress MLA's car, which was also in the cavalcade, was vandalised by suspected BJP workers.

claimed organisers of the Kufortnight later with a rally in the state capital.

meeting, Kumar flayed the Narendra Modi government for the Singh's car shattered. "divisive" Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Former Chief Minister Ji-This is the seventh attack tan Ram Manjhi who heads on the convoy in two weeks, the Hindustani Awam Morcha, Congress MLAs Shakil mar's state-wide "Jan Gan Man Ahmed Khan and Awad-Yatra" which began last month hesh Kumar Singh addressed the drive is being undertaken, and is scheduled to conclude a a gathering at Sherghati in Gaya district.

Later sharing the stage with a the convoy was attacked by host of leaders from the opposi- a group of motorcyclists who tion Grand Alliance at a public hurled stones at the vehicles leaving the window panes of

He, however, was not injured in the incident, party sources said adding that a police complaint was filed in connection with it. A statement was put out by the Joint Forum Against NPR-NRC-CAA, under the banner of which deploring "the seventh such attack in less than two weeks since

Prior to reaching the venue, the beginning of the tour".

Kejriwal **Trounces BJP**,

Retains

Satyender Jain also were among prominent winners.

Modi congratulated Kejriwal for his party's win and wished him "the very best" in fulfilling the aspirations of the people

"Congratulations to AAP and shri Arvind Kejriwal ji for the victory in the Delhi assembly elections. Wishing them the very best in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Delhi," the prime minister tweeted. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal won New Delhi Constituency by over 21,000 votes against his BJP rival Sunil Kumar Yadav.

The elections in the national capital took place in the midst of massive protests in the city and elsewhere over the new citizenship law, an issue which was strongly raised by the BJP top leadership during the campaigning which often turned bitter and vitriolic.

The political opponents of the BJP accused the saffron party of carrying out a "divisive" campaign to polarise the voters by consistently highlighting the over 50-day demonstration by a group of women in Shaheen Bagh area.

Though BJP's campaign focused on national security issues, the AAP mainly focused on its achievements in the fields of education, healthcare and infrastructure.

The AAP had registered a sensational victory in 2015 by winning 67 seats in a hurricane march that almost wiped out the BJP and the Congress.

"We have been saying since the beginning that the upcoming polls will be fought on the basis of work done by us... You wait and watch, we will register a massive win," AAP spokesperson Sanjay Singh told reporters earlier.

"We hope we get such a clear majority that a message goes out that doing Hindu-Muslim politics will not work anymore," said AAP volunteer Fareen Khan at the party office. After he was declared winner from the Patparganj seat, Sisodia said the BJP indulged

in "politics of hate", but people refused its agenda.

'The BJP indulged in politics of hate, but I thank the people of Patparganj... Delhi's people have chosen a government which works for them and explained the true meaning of nationalism through their mandate," he told reporters.

The AAP headquarters were decorated with

even manage a single seat and ended with 4.26 per cent vote share. "It is a victory of the people of Delhi who

considered me their son... Lord Hanuman has blessed us. May god give us more strength to serve people of Delhi," he said. He said the "politics of work" has taken birth in Delhi and the AAP's victory is of the entire country.

"Bharat mata ki jai...Inquilab zindabad," Kejriwal said as he started addressing the supporters.

63 Congress **Candidates Lose**

and Abhishek Dutt from Kasturba Nagar could save their deposits.

The Congress contested the polls this time in alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal, fighting on 66 seats and leaving four for its ally.

The security deposit of a candidate is forfeited if he/she fails to secure one-sixth of the total valid votes cast in a constituency. Most of the Congress candidates got less than five per cent of the total votes polled in

their respective constituencies. Delhi Congress chief Shubhash Chopra's daughter Shivani Chopra, who was the party candidate from Kalkaji, also could not save her deposit.

Former Delhi Assembly speaker Yoganand Shastri's daughter, Priyanka Singh, also forfeited her deposit. The vice-president of Delhi Mahila Congress got only 3.6 per cent votes.

The party's campaign committee chairman and former cricketer Kirti Azad's wife, Poonam Azad, lost badly and stood fourth,

polling only 2,604 (2.23 per cent) votes. Devender Yadav, the party's candidate from the Badli seat, polled 19.66 per cent votes, while Arvinder Singh Lovely from Gandhi Nagar got 19.14 per cent.

The Congress' Kasturba Nagar candidate. Abhishek Dutt, got 21.42 per cent votes and stood a distant third.

The Congress was expected to do good in the minority-dominated seats due to its vehement criticism of the government over the amended citizenship law and police highhandedness at Jamia Millia. However, its candidates lost deposits in all such constituencies too.

Congress candidate from Ballimaran and former Delhi minister Haroon Yusuf could garner a paltry 4.73 per cent votes. Alka Lamba, the outgoing MLA who

SC To Hear Plea Challenging

"incarcerate not just him (Omar Abdullah) but the entire leadership of the National Conference, as well as the leadership of other political parties, who were similarly dealt with including Farooq Abdullah, who has served the state and the union over several years... stood by India whenever the situation so demanded."

It said that on the intervening night of August 4-5, 2019, Omar Abdullah was put under house arrest and it was later learnt that section 107 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 was invoked to justify such arrest.

"There has been a grave violation of Articles 14, 21 and 22 of the Constitution," the plea said, adding, "similar orders of detention have been issued by the Respondents (authorities of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir) over the last seven months in a wholly mechanical manner to other detenues, which suggest that there has been a consistent and concerted effort to muzzle all political rivals".

It said there could be no material available to detain a person who has already been detained for previous six months and the "grounds for the detention order are wholly lacking any material facts or particulars which are imperative for an order of detention".

"In fact, a reference to all the public statements and messages posted by the detenue (Omar Abdullah) during the period up to his first detention would reveal that he has kept calling for peace and co-operation - messages which in Gandhi's India cannot remotely affect public order," it said.

The plea said Omar Abdullah was not even served with the material that formed the basis of grounds of detention order and its non-supply vitiates the detention, which is liable to be quashed.

It said that at no point of time in his "prolific political career", he has resorted to or indulged in conduct unbecoming of a "conscientious public figure"

The grounds of detention against Omar Abdullah, who was chief minister of the state from 2009-14, claims that on the eve of reorganisation of the state he had allegedly made attempts to provoke general masses against the revocation of Articles 370 and 35-A

Omar Abdullah, who has been junior foreign minister and commerce minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led Cabinet in 2000, was served with a three-page dossier in which he was alleged to have made statements in the past which were "subversive" in nature

The first major success against militancy in the district was registered on September 28 last year when security forces killed three ultras, including the mastermind behind the killings, Osama Bin Javed, in Ramban district. In September last year, Saroori's brother Mohammad Shafi was among a dozen persons booked in two separate FIRs for their alleged links with Hizbul Mujahideen but was not arrested.

Shafi refuted having any links with the group and said the allegations against him were "politically motivated". He said he was open to a fair probe and hopeful that the truth would prevail.

"My father also raised the issue of my uncle (Shafi) with the investigating officer who clarified that he is not linked with Hizbul Mujahideen," Shariq claimed.

He said the Congress leader made it clear to the investigating officer that Hizbul Mujahideen militant (Bhat) is not linked with

the family.

"Saroori was added to his alias after the BJP came to power in the erstwhile state in coalition with the PDP. Earlier he was only known by the code name of Jehangir. No question was asked about Osama," Shariq said quoting his father.

Kashmir Shuts Down On Magbool

in the morning as the authorities apprehended violence in the Valley in view of a bandh call given by separatist outfits to mark Bhat's death anniversary, they said.

Authorities had restored 2G internet services in Kashmir on January 25, more than five months after snapping all communication facilities in the valley following the nullification of Article 370 on August 5 last year.

The internet services were suspended on Sunday as well as the separatists had called for a shutdown to mark the death anniversary of Parliament attack convict Mahammad Afza Guru.

Police on Saturday lodged an FIR against the banned Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) for calling a strike on Guru's death anniversary.

Guru was hanged in 2013 inside the Tihar jail in Delhi for his role in the Parliament attack in December 2001.

Bhat was hanged in 1984 and is buried inside the Tihar jail.

Normal life in Kashmir was affected due to the strike. officials said.

Inderjot Singh, Resident Representative, Chandigarh and Liaison Officer of Court Cases, Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Preeti Sharma, Manager of J&K Properties at Amritsar.

"The process for retrieving the remaining 15 Kanals is also under adjudication and shall get settled soon," the official spokesperson added.

Fresh Snowfall In Upper Reaches, project in Gulmarg, also received light to

moderate snowfall.

After witnessing pleasant weather during the last about a week, chilly revisited the summer capital, Srinagar on Tuesday due to overcast conditions. However, the night temperature improved about 3 degree from Monday and settled minus 0.2 degree, which is above normal. People could be seen wearing jackets, sweaters and pheran (traditional Kashmiri cloak), to evade chilly weather conditions in the city.

The skies at world famous health resort of Pahalgam, about 100 km from here in south Kashmir, remained cloudy throughout the day on Tuesday, resulting in dip in the day temperature. But, the night temperature at the health resort improved and settled at minus 5.6 degree, which is above normal.

However, the upper reaches in Pahalgam, including Chandanwari, received very light snowfall. Amarnath cave shine and its periphery, besides Sheshnag, Mahagung, Pisso top and Panjterni, also received light snowfall.

Some parts of Kupwara in north Kashmir also received light rain in the evening, resulting in dip in the maximum temperature. Due to overcast night conduction, the mercury at Qazigund, gateway to the valley, Kupwara in north Kashmir and tourist resort of Kokernag improved and settled at minus 3.8 degree, minus 3.6 degree and minus 1.9 degree, respectively.

Car Skids Off Road In Qazigund, 1 Dead

persons brought dead. The deceased has been identified as Sajad Ahmad Khanday of Vailoo Kokernag. Two of the injured were identified as Mohammad Iqbal Bhat and Taseena Sajad, both residents of Kokernag. Meanwhile, a police official said they

blue and white balloons and big banners with picture of Kejriwal.

The Congress accepted defeat and vowed to rebuild and revive itself at the grassroots level in the city.

It said the poll results also had a message for the BJP that the "most toxic campaign" unleashed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been defeated.

"People's mandate is against us, we accept it. We have resolved to revive and rebuild the party," Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference.

There were counting centres across 21 locations in 11 districts, including at the CWG Sports Complex in east Delhi, NSIT Dwarka in west Delhi, Meerabai Institute of Technology and G B Pant Institute of Technology in southeast Delhi, Sir CV Raman ITI, Dheerpur in central Delhi, and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Bawana in north Delhi.

A total of 672 candidates, including 593 men and 79 women, were in the fray for the hotly contested elections.

While Kejriwal was the star campaigner for the AAP, Prime Minister Modi, Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were among those who extensively campaigned for the BIP.

The Congress got into campaign mode much later. Former prime minister Manmohan Singh and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were among those who campaigned for the Congress.

I Love You: Kejriwal To People Of Delhi

AAP's headquarters in the national capital. "It is the beginning of new kind of politics today. This is very auspicious message for the country and the politics of work can only take our country to the 21st century," he added.

"It is a victory for Bharat Mata (mother India)," he said as a large number of supporters cheered him.

Later, he visited the famous Hanuman temple near Connaught Place along with his family and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

According to the final figures released by the Election Commission, the AAP won in 62 of the 70 seats with a total vote share of 53.57 per cent. The BJP emerged victorious in the remaining eight seats, getting 38.51 per cent of the total votes. The Congress could not

switched to the Congress last year, could garner only 5.03 per cent votes, while the youngest candidate this election and former DUSU president, Rocky Tuseed, polled 3.8 per cent votes

With the Congress receiving 22.46 per cent votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, pushing the Aam Aadmi Party to the third spot, many hoped it would improve its performance in the Assembly elections.

However, the party's vote percentage dropped from 9.7 per cent in 2015 to 4.2 per cent this time. In the 2013 Assembly elections, it had polled 24.55 per cent votes. Sheila Dikshit's son, Sandeep Dikshit, said the results did not surprise him and internal politics kept the party from doing good.

Delhi Mahila Congress chief and party spokesperson Sharmishtha Mukherjee said in a tweet, "We are again decimated in Delhi. Enough of introspection, time for action now. Inordinate delay in decision making at the top, lack of strategy and unity at the state level, demotivated workers, no grassroots connect-all are factors. Being part of the system, I too take my share of responsibility."

Her colleague Jaiveer Shergill suggested that the Congress should avoid things like justifying defeat, finding happiness in the BJP's defeat and telling itself that wins and losses are cyclic in elections.

A few Congress leaders also acknowledged that the party did not go full throttle into campaigning.

Senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra campaigned for party candidates just two-three days ahead of the elections

The party candidates lost deposits in all the seats where the Gandhis had addressed rallies – Jangpura, Sangam Vihar, Chandni Chowk and Kondli.

Taking moral responsibility for the defeat, Shubhash Chopra said, "I worked for 20-21 hours everyday, but I am not tired yet. The Delhi Congress will continue to fight."

BJP Puts Up Posters, Accepts Defeat

old poster and it should not be linked to the Delhi Assembly election results. Earlier, Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari

said he is not nervous as he knows that the polls will have something good for the party.

Chidambaram Mocks

despite poll boycott calls and the potential for channelling energies of public for any cause, has been cited in support of his detention under the PSA.

His political opponent and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti has been accused of making antinational statements and extending support to organisations such as the Jamaat-e-Islamia of the state, which has been banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The former finance minister on Twitter said, "Whoever drafted the grounds of detention of Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti deserves to be sacked and sent to law school.

The PSA dossier prepared by the police against 49-year-old Abdullah, who had served as minister of state for external affairs as well as commerce and industries, states his ability to convince electorates to vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycott calls by separatists and militants.

NIA Quizzes Cong

arrested persons that someone was dropped in a lane leading to their house. Earlier, G M Saroori said he does not know why he was summoned by the NIA.

"I was outside and had reached Jammu this morning. Do you think I have any connection with Hizbul Mujahideen or Osama (a slain militant)," he told reporters outside the NIA office. The communally sensitive Kishtwar had been rocked by a series of militancy incidents since November 2018 after the hilly district was declared militancy-free over a decade ago. The longest surviving Hizbul Mujahdeen militant, Mohammad Amin Bhat alias "Jehangir Saroori", is dubbed as the brain behind the revival of militancy in the district. Militants shot dead senior BJP leader Anil

Parihar and his brother Ajit Parihar on November 1, 2018, while RSS functionary Chanderkant Sharma and his PSO were assassinated on April 9, 2019.

The militants also snatched the service rifle of the deputy commissioner's PSO on March 8, 2019, and the rifle of the PSO of the People's Democratic Party district president on September 13 last year. The NIA is investigating the cases.

Markets and business establishments remained closed while most of the public transport was off the roads, they said. Security personnel were deployed in strength at vulnerable places in the city and elsewhere in the valley to maintain law and order, the officials said.

There have been no reports of any untoward incident from anywhere in the valley so far, they added.

Financial Inclusion Outreach

consequences.

Empowerment of people should not be restricted to political and social aspects, but should also transcend to the economic aspect, the Lt Governor said.

"There are five main factors that go behind the conceptualisation of financial inclusion which are financial empowerment of every citizen, formalising the economy, enhancing national productivity, bringing in transparency and optimisation of national resources. There is a dire need to push this greater social cause by all the stake holders and there is great responsibility on our shoulders," Murmu said.

JK Govt Reclaims Land In Amritsar

the Government of Jammu & Kashmir had been leased out to three different parties for a period of five years, prior to 1964.

"The lease was not renewed and the occupants and their descendants continued the possession illegally. During the last two vears, the matter has been taken up on a fast track basis with the High Court and the Lower Court for retrieval of the land," the spokesperson said.

He said an application under Section 151 CPC had been filed on behalf of Jammu & Kashmir government before the Lower Court for getting the Warrants of Possession.

"The application was decided in favour of J&K Government on 13/12/2019. With the present action, under Court Orders, on 10th of February, 2020, one chunk of 20 Kanals has been retrieved," the spokesperson said. Under the instructions of Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, Dheeraj Gupta, the land was taken over under the supervision of Neeraj Kumar- Additional Resident Commissioner along with Dr.

have registered a case and started furthe investigations.

3 Drug Peddlers Held In Kashmir: Police

spokesperson said. He identified them as Suhail Yousuf Bhat and Ishfaq Ahmed Sofi. "1,352 tablets of a habit-forming drug and 58 bottles of a cough syrup were seized from them," he said. Police said an FIR 44/2020 has been registered and further investigations started in this regard.

CB Probes Rs 134 Lakh Scholarship

made by complainant are substantiated as out of 474 beneficiaries 463 were fake and an amount of 1,34,21,168 had been credited to fake beneficiary Accounts of West Bengal with 317 fake beneficiary Accounts in the State Bank of India, 69 fake beneficiary Account in the Bank of Baroda, 69 fake beneficiary Accounts in the United bank of India, 05 in the Allahabad Bank, 02 of Bangiya Grameen Vikas Bank and 1 Beneficiary Account in Central Bank of India, as against 463 Bank Accounts of J&K mentioned in the application form of candidates who were shown to be residents of Qazigund Kulgam.

"During enquiry it surfaced that the applications have been uploaded on the NSP through two electronic devices in the name of Shubankar Sarkar S and Salim Sheikh, residents of West Bengal who seemingly had the access to the Username and Password for uploading the applications and thereby furnished the Institutional verification," the statement said.

"The verification furnished by District Nodal officer Kulgam, the bank revalidation through CBS, by PMFS followed by digital signatures by Ministry Nodal officer and State Nodal officer has been instrumental in processing and release of payment to the 463 fake beneficiaries," it added

The spokesperson identified the accused Shubankar Sarkar and Salim Sheikh, both residents of West Bengal

"The duo and others acting in deceitful and fraudulent manner by way of impersonation have caused wrongful loss to the exchequer and wrongful gain to beneficiaries thereby have prima-facie committed offences punisĥable U/S 420,468,120-B IPC r/w 66(D) I.T Act, 5 (2) PC ACT," the handout added.