

The Kashmir Talk

WEEKLY | JAMMU | RNI No.: JKENG/2020/85534 | VOL. 5 | ISSUE NO. 35 | PAGE: 16 | Rs.: 3/-

PM Urges Swift Justice for Crimes Against Women

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday underlined the need for swift justice in cases involving crime against women and said that it will give them greater assurance of their safety.

His remarks come against the backdrop of the rape and murder of a Kolkata doctor and sexual assault on two kindergarten girls in Maharashtra's Thane.

Modi also said the judiciary is considered a guardian of the Constitution, and that the Supreme Court and the



judiciary have lived up to the responsibility. Addressing the inaugural session

of a national conference of the district judiciary in the presence of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Modi referred to the "burning issue" of atrocities against women and safety of children and said it was a matter of serious concern.

Noting that stringent provisions have been made in laws for safety of women, the prime minister referred to the fast track special court scheme launched in 2019.

"The faster the verdict is delivered in cases of atrocities against women, the greater assurance half of the

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Militancy in J&K on its last legs, Pakistan isolated for sponsoring terrorism: G Kishan Reddy

Reddy Highlights BJP's Vision for Peace and Progress in J&K, Criticizes Opposition

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Saturday said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has isolated Pakistan globally and the "rogue nation no longer has support from the international community due to its role in sponsoring terrorism".

While Pakistan struggles, India's vision for Jammu and Kashmir is moving forward with peace and progress, he said, asserting that militancy is on its last legs in the

union territory.

He also criticised Congress, saying it was supporting National Conference's "regressive agenda" aimed at pushing Jammu and Kashmir back into the dark era of "militancy and bloodshed".

Addressing a gathering to garner support for Arvind Gupta, BJP candidate from Jammu West for the state assembly polls, Reddy reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir remains the "heartbeat of India".

He said the party's vision for its people reflects the legacy of

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Haryana Polls on Oct 5, Counting with J&K on Oct 8: EC



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

The Election Commission on Saturday deferred the Haryana assembly poll date to October 5 from October 1, saying the decision was

Decision Made to Respect Bishnoi Festival, Counting with J&K on October 8

taken keeping in mind a centuries-old festival of the Bishnoi community. The counting of votes for Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana assembly polls will now be held on October 8 instead of October 4, the poll body said. It has been a practice of the EC to hold the counting of votes on the same day for assemblies which go to polls together as the results of one state could affect trends in others.

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EAM Jaishankar calls China A 'Unique Problem' at ET World Leaders Forum



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Calling China a 'unique problem', External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India is not the only country in the world that is having a debate about that country. Addressing the ET World Leaders Forum on Saturday, Jaishankar said everyone chose to consciously overlook the nature of Chinese production decades ago, and are now complaining.

"China is a unique problem because it has a unique polity and economy. It's not just an Indian problem. If today people are complaining about trade deficits with China, it is because decades ago, we all consciously chose to overlook the nature of Chinese production and the advantages that they enjoyed in a system

EAM Discusses India's Strategic Challenges with China, Pakistan, and Neighboring Democracies

where they got a level playing field with all the advantages that they brought to bear," Jaishankar said.

"There is a general China problem. We are not the only country in the world which is having a debate about China," he strongly asserted.

Citing an example of Europe and the US, the EAM said, "Go to Europe and ask them, what is today among your major economic or national security debates? It's about China. Look at the United States, it's obsessed with

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"Congress, Farooq, Mehbooba Mufti Exploited People Of J&K": Giriraj Singh

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BEGUSARAI (BIHAR):

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Sunday attacked Congress, the National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party for exploiting the people

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PM Modi introduced grassroots democracy in J&K: Dr. Jitendra

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

In an exclusive interview with Doordarshan News, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra



Singh highlighted the historic transformation in Jammu & Kashmir

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Transgender Community Demands Assembly Reservation in J&K Rally

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir polls, members of the transgender community held a rally here on Saturday (August 31, 2024) demanding

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PM Urges Swift...

population will have about their safety," he said. The district monitoring committees, comprising the district judge, the district magistrate and the superintendent of police, can play a key role, he said. Pointing to the important role of the panel in coordinating between various aspects of the criminal justice system, Modi stressed on the need to make these committees more active.

The Kolkata incident has also become a flashpoint between the TMC government in West Bengal and the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

On Friday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to Modi, reiterating her request for stringent central legislation and exemplary punishment on heinous crimes like rape and murder.

Banerjee, who wrote to Modi a few days ago on the issue following nationwide uproar over the rape and murder of the doctor at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9, sought mandatory provision for time-bound disposal of cases of rape/rape and murder.

In response, Union minister Annapurna Devi asserted that existing laws were stringent enough to tackle violence and crimes against women and urged the West Bengal government to implement the same in "letter and spirit".

The government launched the Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) scheme in 2019 to tackle pending cases of crimes against women and those filed under The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Since its inception, these courts have disposed of more than 2.53 lakh cases.

Referring to the role of Judiciary in protecting the Constitution and the spirit of law, the prime minister said the people of India have never shown any distrust of the Supreme Court or the judiciary.

Describing the imposition of the Emergency as a "dark" period, he said the judiciary played a key role in upholding fundamental rights.

On matters of national security, Modi said, the judiciary has protected national integrity by keeping national interests paramount.

Terming the Judiciary as a "strong pillar" of the vision of a developed India, he said the district judiciary is the foundation of the Indian judicial system.

"The common citizen of the country first knocks on your (the lower courts) door for justice. Therefore, this is the first point of justice, this is the first step," Modi said.

Amid suggestions to improve judicial infrastructure, the prime minister said in the last 10 years, efforts have been made to make justice accessible.

Work is being done on mission mode to modernisation of courts for which the Supreme Court and the Judiciary has played a big role by extending cooperation.

Modi observed that India was moving towards creating a unified technology platform, which incorporated emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and optical character recognition and said that such technological platforms would help analyse pending cases and predict future cases as well.

He felt that technology would integrate and speed up the work of various wings like police, forensics, jail and court.

"We are moving towards a justice system which will be completely future-ready," Modi said.

He also unveiled a stamp and coin commemorating 75 years of the establishment of the Supreme Court.

The conference has been organised by the top court to mark 75 years of its establishment.

Militancy in J&K...

Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who established the party with the aim to protect Jammu and Kashmir from "dynastic rule and divisive politics".

"Under BJP's leadership, militancy in J-K is on its last legs, and the region is entering an era of peace and prosperity. The tables have turned and we now see peace, prosperity, and development across the region, thanks to Prime Minister and (home minister) Amit Shah's leadership," added Reddy, the BJP in-charge for the J-K assembly elections.

Reddy credited Modi's policies for turning Pakistan into a "failed state" that has been isolated from the global stage due to its continued support of terror.

He called the assembly elections in Jammu and

Kashmir "a movement for the people" and said the BJP continues its efforts to redefine the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Minister emphasised that this election is the first after the historic abrogation of Article 370, signalling a new era for the people of the union territory.

"This is not just an election. It's a movement for the restoration of dignity for women, West Pakistani refugees, SCs, STs, and Valmiki Samaj, alongside all the people of J-K," he said.

Reddy said the world's eyes are on Jammu and Kashmir now, as India demonstrates how peace, development, and democracy are taking root in the region.

He urged voters not to see this election as a mere political contest but as a crucial step in securing the rights and future of all the people in the region.

"This election is a movement aimed at ensuring that no party such as NC, Congress, or PDP ever snatch back the rights of the common people in J-K."

Taking a strong stand against the NC's recent announcements, including its promise to ensure restoration of Article 370, Reddy warned of dangerous designs to revert to dual flags and return power to militants.

"The people of J-K deserve a government that will strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies like municipal committees and corporations," he said, urging people to vote for change and prosperity over the dynastic politics that have defined the region for decades.

Haryana Polls...

Before the revision of the date, the Haryana polls were to be held along with the third and last phase of the Jammu and Kashmir elections.

The decision to postpone the Haryana elections has been taken to honour both the voting rights and traditions of the Bishnoi community which has upheld a 300-400-year-old practice in remembrance of their Guru Jambheshwar, the EC said. It said it had received a representation from the national president of the All India Bishnoi Mahasabha, Bikaner, Rajasthan for rescheduling the Haryana assembly elections. He said generations of families from Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana visit their native village Mukam in Rajasthan on 'amavas' in the month of 'Asoj' for the annual festival in Bikaner in the memory of Guru Jambheshwar, according to the EC.

This year, the festival falls on October 2 and thousands of Bishnoi families residing in Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar will be travelling to Rajasthan on the day, denying them their voting rights.

Separately, the ruling BJP and the opposition INLD in Haryana had urged the EC to revise the polling date keeping in mind the long weekend which might result in poor voter turnout as people tend to go out on extended weekends.

The revised polling day would also resolve any concerns about a six-day holiday by taking a day's leave on September 30, sources pointed out.

They said the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Haryana sent a report on Saturday wherein he confirmed after holding consultations with the deputy commissioners of Hisar, Sirsa and Fatehabad that the Bishnoi community's annual festival falls on 'amavas' during the month of "Asoj" on October 2 this year.

The CEO noted that thousands of Bishnoi families reside in these three districts, and they have been visiting their native place in Mukam, Rajasthan during this time for the last three centuries.

Families from these districts are expected to start their journey on October 1, he said.

In the past too, the EC has adjusted election dates keeping in mind the sentiments of various communities. The EC had postponed the 2022 Punjab assembly elections by a week to accommodate devotees travelling to Varanasi for Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

Similarly, the commission changed the dates for the 2022 Manipur polls to respect the Christian community's Sunday prayers. In the 2023 Rajasthan assembly elections, it rescheduled polling as it was originally scheduled to be held on Devuthani Ekadashi, a day significant for mass weddings in Rajasthan.

In the 2012 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the poll date was changed due to Barawafat.

"Congress, Farooq..."

of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Prime Minister said that he will conduct the elections. So, he is doing that. The announcement of the elections has been done democratically...The nepotist parties and leaders like Congress, Farooq Abdullah, and Mehbooba Mufti have exploited the people of J-K," Giriraj Singh told reporters on Sunday.

"PM Narendra Modi established democracy by conducting elections of panchayats, and now Vidhan Sabha elections are going to be held," he added.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1, as announced by the Election Commission of India. The votes will be counted on October 8.

PM Modi introduced...

following the abrogation of Article 370, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing grass-root democracy in the region.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "Jammu and Kashmir ushered in a new era of grassroots democracy under PM Modi."

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions emphasised that true local self-government always eluded J&K, despite the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments bringing local self-governance in the rest of India. People of J&K were denied these rights under the guise of special status provided by Article 370 and 35A, he said.

Ironically, pointed out Dr Jitendra Singh, the regional political parties which claimed to be champions of "self-rule" or "autonomy" made sure that the same was denied to the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Dr. Jitendra Singh firmly dismissed opposition parties' attempts to create a false narrative about the restoration of Article 370, stating that these efforts are hollow rhetoric that no longer resonates with the people of J&K.

"People of J&K have seen through these age-old tricks of changing the name of alliances and making empty promises.

This no longer works with the new generation of voters who have witnessed the helpless plight of earlier two generations," he asserted.

Transgender Community...

reservation for them in the legislative assembly.

The rally, which started from Vikram Chowk and culminated at Hari Singh Park in the heart of the city, saw participants carrying placards and raising slogans in support of their demand.

"We have 90 seats in the assembly but not one is reserved for us. We want at least one seat each to be reserved in the two divisions of Jammu and Kashmir for us so that our issues can be resolved," Raveena Mahant, who was leading the rally, told reporters.

She said the rally was organised to voice the transgender community's demand for reservation and representation in the electoral process which has long been denied by the political parties in the region.

"Without such reservation, the community remains under-represented and is unable to influence decisions which directly impact the lives of transgender persons," she added.

Ms. Mahant said the transgender community will continue to advocate for these crucial changes and call on the government and political parties to address the issues at the earliest.

Another participant said that political parties and governments talk about democracy but it is only "lip service because there is no reservation for us in jobs or separate washrooms in educational institutions".

"We are on the road to raise our voice for the rights of the LGBT community. We want the government to listen to us," she said.

EAM Jaishankar...

China, and rightly so in many ways."

Notably, in 2020, the Indian and Chinese troops clashed at Galwan, the same year the pandemic started.

Since May 2020, when the Chinese troops tried to aggressively change the status quo on LAC in eastern Ladakh, both sides have been deployed in forward positions near Patrolling Point 15, which emerged as a friction point in the wake of the Galwan clash.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

Kathua: SVEEP activities encourage voter awareness and participation



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

As part of the ongoing efforts to bolster voter awareness and participation, multiple activities were successfully organized in the Kathua (SC)-67 Assembly Constituency under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

These events, led by officers and community members, aimed to ensure that every eligible voter is informed, engaged, and motivated to participate in the upcoming elections.

A notable poster-making activity was held under the guidance of AC

Nodal Officer Kathua (SC)-67. Jatinder Sethi with his active team members namely Meenu Kalotra, Jyoti Jasrotia, and Aashia Choudhary, this event was a vital step in visually conveying crucial information about the electoral process. Participants created impactful posters that highlighted key voting aspects, such as registration procedures, polling dates, and the significance of every vote. These posters serve as an effective medium to educate and encourage voter participation within the community.

Continuing the momentum, a major SVEEP event took place at Government Higher Secondary School Boys Kathua.

The event commenced with a heartfelt tribute to Major Dhyana Chand in celebration of National Sports Day 2024, honoring the birth anniversary of the legendary Indian hockey player. This tribute underscored the district's commitment to national pride and civic duty, setting a meaningful tone for the activities that followed.

Students played a central role in the event, delivering impassioned speeches on the importance of inclusive voting practices. Their messages emphasized the necessity of broad voter participation in the upcoming elections, particularly encouraging marginalized groups, the elderly, and women to exercise their democratic rights.

Adding a creative dimension, students performed a skit that vividly depicted various aspects of voter engagement, stressing the importance of informed voting. The performance highlighted that every vote counts and that informed participation is essential in shaping the future of the nation.

These SVEEP activities, blending respect for national icons with strong voter education efforts, exemplify Kathua's dedication to fostering a more inclusive and participatory democratic process.

The events are part of District SVEEP plan meticulously orchestrated by the District Election Office under the supervision of RO-67 Kathua (SC) Vishav Partap Singh (ACR).

Congress prioritized power over Nation, public welfare never remained its priority: Kavinder Gupta



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Saturday lambasted Congress for corruption and misrule in Jammu and Kashmir from 1947 to 2014.

Chairing a number of public meetings here today, the stalwart leader of BJP said that Congress always prioritized power over national interests and public welfare was never the priority of the oldest political outfit in the country. He castigated Congress for not mending its ways as by making the alliance with National Conference, it has again proved that the only ambition of its leadership is to gain power, even if the path to power is against the interests of India as the case of alliance with the NC party because it has a track record of supporting those entities which are against the governments of different times.

Kavinder asked the party cadre to remain united and work for the victory of the party by disseminating information about the plans, policies and achievements of BJP among the masses. He said that even if all the opposition parties come together against the party, no power can stop it from making the next government in J&K as the biggest power is the people's mandate, which is with the BJP.

The senior BJP leader said that achievements of the Modi Government in J&K are enough to garner votes because the Congress during its over seven decades rule before 2014 had committed numerous mistakes leading to suffering and mental stress for the people. "On the contrary, Modi Government in its last ten years of rule has given immense relief to people of the UT starting from abrogation of Article 370 to development, peace and prosperity, which was the ultimate desire of the people", he maintained adding that BJP is going before the electorate with its work and dedication towards society unlike Congress, which is promising rollback of J&K to dark era while sitting in the lap of Pakistan 'supporter' NC.

Kavinder urged the people to judge things and support BJP in the polls as a vote to the Saffron party is a vote for peace, progress and prosperity.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

SVEEP activities promote voter awareness at Ramsoo in Ramban

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

The District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO), Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, has intensified its Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) awareness programs across the district.

The awareness programs are designed to educate the electorate about the significance of every single vote in a democracy and to inspire citizens to actively engage in the electoral process. These initiatives emphasize the power of the vote and its impact on shaping governance and public policy. Today, the District SVEEP team organized awareness programs at Government



High School Ramsoo, and in the market areas of Ramsoo and Magerkote, which fall under the 55-Banihal Assembly Constituency.

The program was led by Assistant Nodal Officers Manjeet Singh, Abdul Hamid, and Suraj Parkash, under the supervision of the District Nodal Officer SVEEP, Bikram Singh.

The SVEEP team from 55 AC-Banihal also participated in the program, ensuring a collaborative approach to reaching out to the local

populace.

The SVEEP awareness programs witnessed enthusiastic participation from diverse sections, including local residents, prominent citizens, female voters, and students. The areas covered in today's outreach were specifically chosen due to historically low voter turnout, with a focus on sensitizing the community about the importance of their right to vote and its profound impact on the future of governance.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS DEO Doda seeks better upkeep of roads, National Highway for smooth conduct of Assembly Election

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Election-2024, District Election Officer (DEO) Doda, Harvinder Singh, conducted an inspection of the National Highway in Assar area the other day. The inspection focused on assessing the condition of the road, which plays a crucial role in ensuring smooth and uninterrupted transportation during the election period. During the inspection, the DEO Doda emphasized the importance of regular maintenance the National Highway to facilitate the movement of election personnel, materials, and voters.

He directed the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to carry out necessary maintenance work on the Bagger to Thathri (Doda) stretch of the highway without delay. Harvinder Singh reiterated that a well-maintained road network is essential for the efficient conduct of the electoral process. He urged the NHIDCL to prioritize the repair and upkeep of the highway to avoid any disruptions during the election period.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

General Observer listens to public issues at Doda

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed Aditya Negi as the General Observer for 52-Doda & 53- Doda west Assembly

Constituency in view of the General Elections to Legislative Assembly, 2024. To ensure transparent conduct of elections, the General Observer shall remain available to meet stakeholders on election related matters at PWD Dak Banglow Doda between

10:00 am to 11:00 am for 3 days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Meanwhile, the concerned stakeholders can meet the General Observer regarding any query or complaint related to elections during the given time frame.



ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

General Observer Zainapora AC visits polling stations; reviews AMF

BLOs asked to focus on maximum Voter engagement

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SHOPIAN:

The General Observer for the Zainapora Assembly Constituency, Jeevan Babu K Thursday conducted an extensive inspection of various polling stations across the constituency. The inspection aimed to assess the preparedness and provision of assured minimum facilities (AMFs) at these locations in anticipation of the upcoming elections. The Observer visited polling stations at Trenz, Pahnoo, Turkawagam, Heff, and Sugan, where he thoroughly examined the AMFs available, including electricity, water supply, ramps, toilets, seating arrangement and sanitation kept in place to facilitate accessible and inclusive elections. He emphasized the need for polling stations to be accessible, particularly for women, elderly voters, and persons with special abilities, ensuring that no one is left behind in the electoral process.

During his visit, the General Observer interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and impressed



upon them to actively motivate and encourage the local community to participate in the upcoming elections, stressing the importance of voter engagement for the democratic process. Jeevan Babu K also underscored the necessity of conducting robust Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities to raise awareness and boost voter turnout. He called for intensified efforts in this regard, urging the concerned officials to leave no stone unturned in their outreach to the electorate.

In addition, the General Observer issued strict instructions to magistrates to prevent the circulation of illegal cash, liquor, and drugs, which could potentially disrupt the smooth conduct of the elections.

He highlighted the importance of vigilance, particularly at district entry points and other critical locations. The inspection concluded with the General Observer reaffirming his commitment to ensuring a free, fair, and transparent election process in the Zainapora constituency.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

DEO Shopian chairs meet with Magistrates of FSTs & SSTs

Stresses on strict enforcement of MCC, SOPs

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SHOPIAN:

To ensure strict adherence of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other SOPs for the smooth conduct of Assembly elections in the district, District Election Officer, (DEO) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today convened a meeting of magistrates of Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams (FSTs and SSTs) at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO stressed upon the officers to perform election duties with utmost care and seriousness and stay proactive on the ground to ensure free, fair and smooth elections process in the district.

The DEO sensitised the officers about their crucial role and responsibility under SOPs of Election Commission of India on conducting free and fair elections, and called for strictly enforcing the same in their



areas of operation. They were asked to enforce Model Code of Conduct (MCC) strictly by using their magisterial powers.

He directed all concerned officers to ensure strict compliance of various norms related to monitoring of campaigning, reporting violations of MCC promptly, tracking complaints

on cVigil, enforcing strict vigil on checkpoints in order to curb illegal transactions of cash and kind. Nodal Officer, MCC (Dr. Zakir Hussain Paaz; Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmed and other concerned Magistrates of FSTs and SSTs were present on the occasion along with other concerned nodal officers.

Farooq's Unity & Diversity Remark Falls Flat When He Talks About Pakistan & ISI: Tarun Chugh

"National Conference's Unity Talk Just a Filmi Drama"

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

In a notable political development, Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary and Incharge for J&K and Ladakh, has criticized Farooq Abdullah's recent comments on unity and diversity, especially in light of discussions involving Pakistan. Chugh condemned the sudden shift in the National Conference's rhetoric as mere political theatre.

Chugh stated, "We call on the JKNC's Abdullah-led government to go beyond empty rhetoric and take tangible steps toward building a unified and integrated nation. Mere grandstanding and empty promises will not achieve this; we need real results and sincere efforts." He further commented on the irony of the situation, pointing out that the National Conference, which dazzled the public with promises to restore Article 370 in their election manifesto, now claims that this could take over 100 years. Chugh remarked that it was "ironic" for them to seek to be seen as champions of unity. He added that before they lecture others on coming together, they should stop misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir with false promises and focus on providing genuine solutions.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

GDC Ramgarh hosts enlightening lecture on "NALSA Welfare Schemes" in collaboration with DLSA Samba

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SAMBA:

Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized an insightful lecture on the "Welfare schemes of the National Legal Services Authority" (NALSA), in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Samba.

The event was held under the esteemed chairmanship of the Principal District Session Judge Samba, Adnan Syed and with the directions of the Secretary (Sub Judge), Rekha Nischal. The whole program was conducted under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra. The lecture was delivered by Advocate Rahul Sharma, a distinguished panel lawyer from the District Legal Services Authority, and was assisted by Para legal volunteers of DLSA Sanjeev Padma and Mannu Rani. Advocate Rahul Sharma provided a comprehensive overview of NALSA, SALSA (State Legal Services Authority) and DLSA. He highlighted various key welfare schemes of NALSA and detailed how NALSA has been instrumental in offering legal services to disaster victims, victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, to workers in non-organized sectors, who often lack access to legal resources, child-friendly legal services, and services to mentally ill and disabled individuals in navigating legal challenges.

Additionally, he emphasized NALSA's initiatives to raise awareness and provide medical support to drug victims through various camps.

NC-Congress alliance nothing more than 'marriage of convenience': Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday termed the newly formed alliance between the National Conference (NC) and the Congress as nothing more than a 'marriage of convenience' which is going to be temporary as the 'bonhomie' is just to remain politically relevant.

In a strongly worded statement issued to media persons, the BJP stalwart leader asserted that the alliance lacks ideological coherence and is driven solely by the desire to regain power at any cost. "The unity of NC and Congress is a desperate attempt to stay relevant in

the UT's evolving political scenario. Both parties have historically been at odds with each other, with conflicting agendas and priorities. Now, seeing their diminishing influence and the rising popularity of the BJP, they have come together not out of shared vision, but out of sheer opportunism," he said and added that this short lived unity is a stark reminder of the Congress' history of aligning with any party for the sake of power, regardless of its impact on people.

"The people have not forgotten how these parties have failed them repeatedly in the past", he said while asking the party cadre to remain focused and united in their efforts to garner support for BJP. He said that BJP is the only party with a clear vision for J&K's

future, committed to development, security, and good governance. "BJP's track record speaks for itself. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party has taken bold steps to integrate J&K with the rest of the country, ensure peace, and promote economic growth. The abrogation of Article 370, the fight against terrorism, and the focus on infrastructure development are all testament to the party's commitment", he said and appealed to the people to weigh their options carefully during polls. He said, it is the time for every BJP worker to expose the opportunistic nature of the NC-Congress alliance and to communicate the BJP's vision and achievements among every voter.



ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

Divisional Commissioner Jammu reviews Assembly Election-2024 preparedness in Doda centres.



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU DODA:

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today chaired a high-level meeting in the conference hall of DC Office Doda to assess the district's preparedness for the upcoming General Election to Legislative Assembly-2024.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth conduct of the elections.

The Divisional Commissioner sought a detailed overview of the transport plan for polling staff, the mobilization of election machinery, and the secure dispatch and reception of EVMs in designated strong rooms post-polling and other important aspects regarding election preparedness in the District.

During the meeting, District Election Officer (DEO) Harvinder Singh, presented a detailed overview of the district's election preparedness. The presentation covered key areas such as the arrangements at polling stations, the dispatch of polling parties, the collection of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) post-polling, monitoring of the Model Code of Conduct, and the status of Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) printing and delivery.

The DEO Doda informed the chair on the coverage of assured minimum facilities at polling stations, the establishment of model polling stations, the division of zones and sectors, and the logistics concerning EVMs and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs).

The discussion also took place on the strong room and security plans, as well as the arrangements for the dispatch, collection, and counting

centres. The Div Com examined the arrangements for the dispatch of poll parties, setting up collection centres, and the provision of vehicles and other logistics to ensure a seamless conduct of the polling process.

The Divisional Commissioner urged all Nodal officers and officials to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing any challenges that may arise during the election process.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the officers to ensure that all preparations are completed well in advance, calling for careful planning and coordination among the departments involved in the electoral process.

He also reviewed the law and order situation and security arrangements in the district.

The meeting was attended by the General Observer of AC 51-Bhaderwah, Dr A Mallikarjuna, General Observer of AC 52- Doda & 53-Doda west, Aditya Negi, Police Observer, Dharamvir, DIG DKR, Shridhar Patil, District Election Officer (DEO) Doda, Harvinder Singh, SSP Doda, Mohd Aslam, Nodal Officer MCC, Pran Singh, Deputy District Election Officer, Om Parkash, Returning Officers, all District-level Nodal officers, and all Assembly-level Nodal officers for AC-51 Bhaderwah, AC-52 Doda, and AC-53 Doda West.

Pledge Taking Ceremony, SVEEP awareness program held at GHSS Bani



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KATHUA:

To promote voter awareness and the importance of ethical voting, a pledge-taking ceremony and awareness program were conducted today at Government Higher Secondary School, Bani, under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

Students from classes 11th and 12th actively participated in the event.

Neha Sharma and Ishan Gupta, students of the school, delivered insightful speeches on the importance of voting and the vital role of youth in strengthening democracy. Their presentations emphasized how young voters can shape the future of the nation through informed and responsible participation in the electoral process.

The AC Nodal Officer, SVEEP 63-Bani Prof. Naseeb Kumar Bhagat, provided valuable insights into the latest technological advancements introduced by the Election Commission of India. He highlighted the role of apps such as C-Vigil, KYC, and Saksham, which have been launched to provide citizens with updated electoral information. Prof. Bhagat also encouraged the future voters to spread the message of ethical voting within their communities.

The Sector Officer 63- Bani AC Dr. Resham Singh spoke on the significance of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in ensuring free and fair elections. His address underscored the importance of adhering to the MCC to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

Armless Archer Sheetal Devi Secures Paris Paralympics Round of 16 Spot

AGENCY PARIS:

India's armless archer Sheetal Devi finished second in the women's individual compound open ranking round with a stunning performance to directly make a round of 16 entry in the Paris Paralympics on Thursday.

The 17-year-old Devi from Jammu and Kashmir, who shoots with her legs as she was born without arms, scored a total of 703 points out of possible 720 to finish second behind Ozgur Girdi Cure of Turkey, who set a ranking round world record of 704 points.

In fact, Devi also got past the ranking round



world record of 698 set by Phoebe Pine Paterson of Great Britain earlier this month, but the Turkish archer overtook her to claim the coveted mark.

The top-four finishers in the ranking round, including Devi, got byes from the round of 32 competition and they will feature in the round of 16 on Saturday.

Devi will face the winner of round of 32 match between Mariana Zuniga of Chile and Choi Na Mi of Korea, who finished 15th and 18th respectively in the ranking round.

Zuniga had won a silver in the women's individual compound open in the Tokyo Paralympics.

Devi had become a sen-

sation during last year's Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, where she became the first Indian woman to win two gold medals in a single edition of the Games. She had won a third medal - a silver - also. She had won gold medals in the women's individual compound as well as mixed team event and a silver in the women's doubles in Hangzhou. Discovered at a military camp in a remote part of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir and adopted by the Indian Army in her childhood, Devi also became the first armless woman to win a Para World Archery Championships medal last year.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SVEEP: Vibrant Voter Awareness program held at Pattan



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BARAMULLA:

In view of the Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir, a comprehensive voter awareness program was held in Pattan today under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) aimed to educate and engage the electorate, about the importance of voting and the electoral process.

The SVEEP programme was organized under the overall guidance of Returning Officer for 13-Pattan, Gulzar Ahmad Rather, who also participated in the event.

The event commenced with a vibrant new-voter rally in which hundreds of first-time voters participated, marching through various localities of the town, effectively spreading the message of voter awareness.

Throughout the course of the SVEEP program, various engaging cultural activities were held to inspire and educate the public about the democratic process.

Students from different schools enthusiastically participated in the activities, like folk dance, Kashmiri rouf, art competition, showcasing their talent and creativity while learning about the importance of voting and democratic processes.

Save Lives Road Safety Lecture by Indian Army at Sindrah, Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

Driving on roads requires appropriate precautions and behaviour to stay safe, especially in difficult weather conditions such as wet, snowy or icy roads. To spread awareness on

road safety Indian Army organized a lecture at Sindrah, Poonch district. The motive of the event was to spread awareness, contributing to safer roads by educating people about traffic rules, promoting responsible driving behaviour, reducing accidents,

and fostering a culture of road safety. Event aimed to spread awareness/knowledge about traffic accidents which are a major cause of deaths in India. A team from Indian Army addressed the locals and gave a lecture about the significance of practi-

ing road safety measures. Everyone should respect others while driving or walking on the road and take care of their safety. People safety on the road is one of the most important aspects in order to avoid road accidents, injury and death.

Reddy, Chugh, Dr. Jitendra, Raina Inaugurates Media War Room in Jammu



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

In a significant move aimed at enhancing communication and outreach, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today inaugurated a Media War Room in Jammu during assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event, held at the Ritz Hotel in Channi, was graced by several prominent leaders including G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister & Election Incharge J&K BJP, Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary and Prabhari J&K BJP, Ravinder Raina President J&K BJP, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Jugal Kishore Sharma MP (Lok Sabha), Sardar RP Singh, National Spokesperson, Shazia IImi, National Spokesperson and Sat Sharma, former Minister. Other senior leaders of the party were also present to mark the occasion.

"The Media War Room is envisioned as a strategic hub to strengthen the party's connection with the public through the media, during assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir", said Tarun Chugh.

Speaking at the inauguration,

Tarun Chugh emphasized the importance of this initiative in bridging the gap between the party and the people. He noted that the primary purpose of setting up the Media War Room is to ensure that the party's voice reaches the public efficiently and effectively through various media channels. He highlighted that direct contact and communication with the people are crucial in ensuring that the party's policies, achievements, and future plans are well understood by the masses.

In his address, Tarun Chugh also launched a scathing attack on the National Conference (NC), questioning their stance on the restoration of Article 370. He stated that during the BJP's tenure, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a period of peace and prosperity, in contrast to the difficulties faced by the people under the governance of the National Conference. Chugh pointed out that during the NC's rule, the region was mired in challenges, whereas the BJP, through various beneficiary schemes and steps, has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chugh warned that the National Conference aims to bring back the dark days of the 1990s, a time marked by terrorism and sectarian-

ism. He presented statistics to illustrate the improvements made in Jammu and Kashmir during the BJP's tenure, citing a significant decrease in infiltration and terrorist attacks, and an overall improvement in the security situation. Chugh asserted that the BJP has successfully brought about a positive transformation in the region, and this progress would be at risk if the National Conference were to regain power.

In a bold move, Chugh challenged National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah to a debate on the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the improvements made by the BJP. He expressed confidence that such a debate would clearly demonstrate the strides made under BJP rule, which has brought peace and stability to the region.

Chugh reiterated the BJP's commitment to the security and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that their safety has always been the party's top priority. He accused the National Conference of spreading falsehoods about Articles 370 and 35(a), and of making misleading promises about restoring these provisions if they return to power. Chugh also referred to recent remarks by National Conference MP from Srinagar, who suggested that the situation of the 1990s could return to Jammu and Kashmir if Article 370 is not restored. Chugh criticized this stance, asserting that it reflects the NC's desire to bring back the era of chaos and violence. Tarun Chugh further warned that the National Conference seeks to free individuals who were responsible for creating turmoil in Jammu and Kashmir, individuals who are currently behind bars for their actions. He urged the people to recognize the progress made under the BJP and to reject any attempts to return to the dark days of the past.

GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur celebrates Int'l Youth Day and National Sports Day



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU UDHAMPUR:

Under the aegis of International Youth Day, Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society flagged off a rally from the college premises followed by a Tug of War to mark and celebrate "National Sports Day".

The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Principal of the college.

As many as 50 students participated in the rally carrying the banner and spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS and fighting stigma and discrimination against people living with this infection. The purpose of the program was to create awareness among the students about this deadly disease. The rally was followed by a tug of war between Team A and Team B of the college where Team B was victorious. Speaking on the occasion, the Principal emphasized the students to show support for the people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS. She also encouraged the students to lead a healthy life through sports.

The Principal appreciated the efforts of the participants and congratulated the staff and the students for organizing such an event. Dr. Sunil Tanoch (HOD Sociology) was the Convener of the event. Others present in the event were Dr. Maansi Sharma, Prof. Rekha Sharma, Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal.

DC Jammu seeks explanation from absentee health staff



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya conducted a surprise inspection of the Tehsil Office and the Government Health & Wellness Centre Pargwal.

Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the inspection tour.

At the Tehsil Office, the Deputy Commissioner scrutinised the Service Plus portal and evaluated the office's adherence to Public Service Guarantee Act, PSGA guidelines. He reviewed both pending and resolved applications, interviewed staff on routine matters and examined record maintenance practices. The DC also addressed several contentious local Revenue Department matters during his visit.

Following the Tehsil office inspection, the DC visited the Health & Wellness Centre Pargwal. There, he checked staff attendance, gathered feedback from patients and assessed the medical facilities and prescription practices.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

Election Expenditure Observer reviews surveillance measures in Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

Expenditure Observer for Poonch Bharat Ramchandra Andhale on Thursday reviewed enforcement measures taken by the District Election Authority to ensure strict adherence to the Election Commission of India's guidelines on election-related expenditures. Earlier, Ramchandra Andhale was welcomed by the District Election Officer Vikas Kundal.

The Expenditure Observer appreciated the District Election Officer Poonch for setting up a vibrant election mechanism. He emphasized the importance of diligence and strict compliance to the guidelines throughout the election process, underscoring the vital role of the expenditure monitoring team in maintaining the integrity of the elec-

tions. He urged the officials to perform their duties with utmost professionalism. He issued instructions to the Static Surveillance Team (SST) to check each and every vehicle without any fail and seize any suspicious cash or material.

He issued directions to the Flying Surveillance team to redress the online complaints on the cVIGIL portal within 100 minutes as mandated by the ECI. The Video surveillance team was instructed to keep a strong vigil on the political activities and rallies within the district and keep a record of it.

The Manager Lead Development Banks was instructed to closely monitor the transactions beyond the permissible limit and report to the concerned authorities on a day to day basis. The excise and taxation officer was directed to conduct surprise visits and keep a record of sale

and stock of liquor on a daily basis. Earlier, the Election Expenditure Observer conducted a thorough inspection of election monitoring facilities established at District Development Commissioner's Office Poonch including Returning officers room where nominations will be filed, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC), Complaint Management Cell, Video Viewing Team and meticulously reviewed expenses record, verified their authenticity and adherence of election guidelines. During his visit, he was accompanied by the District Election Officer Poonch, SSP Poonch, ADC Poonch, ACR Poonch, DIO Poonch and other key officers designated for smooth conduct of the elections.

He assured his support throughout the election period for any query or concern related to election.



Tarun Chugh visits election war room in Channi Himmat

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K BJP today visited the election war room established by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at Channi Himmat for the ongoing assembly elections in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Accompanied by senior party leaders, Chugh thoroughly inspected the arrangements made for press conferences and evaluated the infrastructure installed for media communications and related tasks.

During the visit, Chugh was joined by MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Chairman of the Election Campaign Committee, Ashish Sood, Seh-Prabhari, J&K BJP, RP Singh and Shazia Ilimi, BJP National Spokespersons, Aseem Gupta, Convener of the Election Management Committee, Pawan Khajuria, Co-convener, election management committee & BJP Vice President of J&K.

Tarun Chugh observed the elaborate provisions made at the war room.

Expressing his satisfaction, Chugh remarked that the election war room is well-equipped to counter the misinformation and propaganda launched by opposition parties. He emphasized that this facility



will be instrumental in highlighting the BJP's programs, policies, and the significant achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government ensuring effective campaign planning and execution during the elections.

Furthermore, Chugh appreciated the efforts made by the party's election management teams, stating that the war room would act as the nerve center of the BJP's electoral strategy in Jammu & Kashmir. From here, the party will coordinate outreach activities, monitor the opposition's tactics, and swiftly address any challenges or misinformation.

He also mentioned that the war room will streamline communication between the party and the electorate, ensuring that BJP's messaging remains consistent and its vision

for J&K reaches every corner of the region. Chugh expressed confidence that the party's strong campaign will resonate with the people, bringing them closer to the party's vision for development and progress in the Union Territory.

Chugh emphasized the importance of media relations in modern campaigning, saying, "This war room will not only be a center for internal strategy but will also serve as a dedicated space for engaging with the media."

He concluded by reiterating the party's readiness to launch a powerful and impactful campaign. In a statement of confidence, he announced that the BJP's election manifesto will be unveiled from this very war room in the coming days, signaling the party's clear vision for the future of Jammu & Kashmir.

Rich Harvest School, Rotary Club initiate plantation drive

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a bid to support the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign and to raise awareness about climate change, Rich Harvest School, in collaboration with the Rotary Club, organized an impressive plantation drive on its sprawling campus. The event aimed to foster environmental consciousness among students while combating the pressing issue of climate change.

The Head of the Institute, Anita Bhatia, warmly welcomed distinguished guests from the Rotary Club, including District Governor P.S. Grover, Past District Governor Dr. Dushyant, President Balvinder Singh, Secretary Dr. Anamika, Joint Secretary Prof. Ranjit Singh Jamwal, and Vocational Director Dr. Sandhya Bhardwaj.

The school management, represented by Managing Director, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak and Director, Ruchi Charak, was also present to support the initiative. During her address, Dr. Sandhya Bhardwaj inspired students to actively participate in environmental preservation by planting and safeguarding trees. She emphasized the importance of trees in maintaining the ecological balance and urged the children to become stewards of nature.

Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Managing Director of Rich Harvest School, highlighted the numerous benefits of living in harmony with nature and stressed the need for collective efforts to preserve the environment for future generations.

The event saw the planting of around 100 saplings by the guests and students, who also took a solemn pledge to care for the saplings until they grow into full-fledged trees. This plantation drive marked a significant step toward instilling environmental responsibility in the young minds and contributing to a greener, healthier planet.

Assembly Elections-2024: Election Expenditure observer reviews working of monitoring team in Poonch District

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Expenditure Observer, Bharat Ramchandra Anthale (IRS) was warmly welcomed by the District Election Officer Poonch, Vikas Kundal here at Poonch today. He held a crucial meeting with the District Election officer Poonch with regards to preparation of the upcoming Assembly elections in the district. The DEO provided a comprehensive



presentation detailing the proactive steps taken by the district administration to monitor election-related expenditures strictly as per the guidelines issued

by the election commission of India.

During the meeting, the Expenditure Observer emphasized the importance of diligence and

adherence to the guidelines throughout the election process.

Furthermore, he highlighted the critical role of the expenditure monitoring team in ensuring the integrity of the election process urging him to ensure that the team members perform their duties by upholding highest values of integrity and professionalism which will provide level playing field to all candidates ensuring free and fair elections.

DIPR Jammu bids adieu to retiring officials



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu bid a warm farewell to Information Assistant Neel Kamal and PAS Operator Ashok Kumar who attained superannuation today. Neel Kamal Information Assistant served in the department for over 33 years whereas PAS Operator Ashok Kumar served for 28 years. An impressive function was organized in the Auditorium of DIPR to bid farewell to the officials.

Joint Director Information, Atul Gupta; Deputy Director (PR) Jammu, Ankush Hans; Deputy Director (HQ), Virender Gupta; Field Publicity Officer, Mukesh Kumar, Youth Information Officer, Monika Sambhyal; Information Officers, Sachin Bali, Ashu Kumari besides other officers and officials of the department and family members of retiring officials attended the function. Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Information hailed the services rendered by the retiring officials in DIPR and congratulated them on their retirement. He extended his best wishes to the officials for their post-retirement life and opined that post-retirement life could be dedicated to the betterment of society.

Other officers and colleagues also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the contribution of the retiring officials in the department.

The officers and officials of DIPR also appreciated retiring officials for their dedicated service career in the department and congratulated them on their superannuation.

Creation of new five districts will foster rapid development in Ladakh: Nitish

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Nitish Mahajan, Co-incharge of the BJP Social Media Department, J&K, has commended the Modi Government for its landmark decision to establish five new districts in Ladakh. He emphasized that this strategic move is poised to be a game-changer in the region, fostering rapid development and bringing governance closer to the people.

In a statement issued here today, Nitish pointed out that the creation of these new districts is far more than a routine administrative measure; it is a vital initiative that empowers the people of Ladakh. "By establishing these districts, the government is ensuring that the voices of Ladakhis are heard and that they



have greater control over their future," he remarked.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mahajan noted, Ladakh has experienced remarkable progress. This decision to create new districts is yet another example of the government's commitment to the region's growth and

development. It reflects the administration's focus on inclusive governance and its determination to uplift even the most remote areas of the country," he said.

The senior BJP leader further added that the establishment of these districts will lead to enhanced infrastructure, better public service delivery, and more effective governance in Ladakh. He expressed optimism that this development would open up new opportunities for the people of the region, contributing to their overall well-being and prosperity.

Nitish reaffirmed the BJP's dedication to the comprehensive development of Ladakh, ensuring that the region continues to benefit from the visionary policies of Prime Minister Modi's government.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Sanskrit's Global Relevance

Sanskrit is the oldest language in the world. It is also called the language of the gods i.e. 'Devbhasha' or 'Devvani'. In the past, this language gave shape to Indian civilization and even today its relevance has not diminished. To be honest, Sanskrit is not just a language, but the pillar of Hindu culture. It contains in itself a vast storehouse of knowledge, science, religion, rituals, culture and spirituality. In the very vast and comprehensive storehouse of Sanskrit language, all three forms of prose, poetry and Champu are present. This great storehouse of Sanskrit includes the four Vedas including the world's first book 'Rigveda', all the Upanishads, eighteen Puranas including Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana, the great book Shri Ramcharit Manas written by Goswami Tulsidas, which is extremely popular and an unbiased authentic exposition of Sanatan culture and civilization, and the authentic base book of Shri Ram Katha, Ramayana written by Maharishi Valmiki, Smritis, Sukta, Trayisamgraha, Dharmashastra, Mahabharata and many other epics, dramas etc. Apart from these, Shiksha, Kalpa, Grammar, Nirukta, Chhand Jyotish, Vedanga-Nyaya, Vaisheshik Sankhya Yoga, Vedanga Mimansa, Philosophy etc. are the gifts of this language. Among the philosophies, Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, Charvak, Theistic and Atheistic philosophies are prominently notable. Among the authors, Agastya, Amaru, Asaga, Ashwaghosh, Aryashur, Valmiki, Vyas, Bhallaat, Bhavabhuti, Bhimsami, Bhuvande, Mankhak, Dandi, Bhas, Bharavi, Kalhan, Kautilya, Kuntaka, Subandhu, Magh, Banbhath, Kalidas, Ratnaka Swami, Shriharsha, Jalhan, Jaydev, Shudraka, Vishakhadatta, Lolimbaraj, Vishnu Sharma, Satyavrat Shastri, Harsha, Rajshekhar and Harshvardhan etc. poets, dramatists, prose writers and unique grammarians like Panini are important parts of the dignified treasure of Sanskrit language. It is noteworthy that due to the birth of many Indian and foreign languages from the womb of Sanskrit language, it is also called the 'mother of languages'. Although in the past centuries, Sanskrit language and the literature written in it and the writers who wrote it had to face a lot of neglect, but despite this its relevance always remained and remains even today, whereas many other languages of the world including Latin and Greek were neglected and perished in the rapid flow of time. The biggest reason for the relevance of Sanskrit language is that there is absolutely no apparent difference in the spelling, letters, syllables and pronunciation of the words formed by this language written in Devanagari script. This means that Sanskrit is a completely scientific language with a definite grammar. Sanskrit is also recognized for its capability in modern technology, especially in the field of computer science and this is the reason that today it also has the distinction of being an important language of the computer, the most important means of modern lifestyle. The structured syntax and grammar of Sanskrit language also makes it excellent for computer programming languages. Now scientists are also trying to find out the possibilities of using this language in artificial intelligence (AI) and other cutting edge technologies. In fact, the structure of Sanskrit is so precise and its phonetics is so rich that it is considered the most suitable language for spiritual discourse. Nowadays, research work is also being done on this at many levels in Germany. The basis of the initial thinking for our indigenous missiles with ultra-modern and huge lethal capacity has also been our Vedas and their various Samhitas written in Sanskrit. These are the same Ved Shastras from which our important Vedic tradition started. This tradition is the foundation of Sanatan Dharma. Talking about sanskars, there are a total of 16 sanskars in this Vedic tradition.

Garment goals need more than short-term support

India has set itself a bold target of \$100 billion of exports in textiles and apparel by 2030. This is the right move.



NITYA SRINATH AND MIHIR PAREKH

India has set itself a bold target of \$100 billion of exports in textiles and apparel by 2030. This is the right move. With one of the most labour-intensive products – apparel – accounting for 50-60 per cent of this total, this target will help immensely in overcoming our greatest challenge – better jobs for 20 crore farm labour, women who want to be in the labour force, and unemployed youth. Unfortunately, our track record suggests that this will prove to be a challenging task.

India's apparel exports remain range bound at \$16-19 billion from 2015 to 2022 even as Vietnam increased its exports by 70 per cent (\$20 billion to \$35 billion) and Bangladesh nearly doubled its exports (\$26 billion to \$47 billion) during this period. The Union Government recognises the need for change. It has decided to back its "vision" with some fiscal "action" as it launched the much-awaited Employment Linked Incentive scheme in the Budget for 2024-25. The scheme provides incentives to employees for taking up formal sector jobs even as it incentivises employers to create capacities in labour intensive sectors (including but not limited to garment manufacturing).

This is a step in the right direction and will help bridge the gap with Bangladesh and Vietnam. However, to really understand this gap, we must look at the pure cost disability of an Indian garment manufacturer vis-a-vis the two countries. Let's take the example of a 1,000 machine garment unit – large by Indian standards but quite small by international standards. It employs 2,000 people and manufactures 60 lakh polyester T-shirts per annum at a unit cost of Rs 238 per t-shirt. This is more than what it would cost to make in Bangladesh or Vietnam by roughly Rs 24, or 10 per cent.

The net profit margin for such a product is typically Rs 10-11. Hence, at the factory gate itself, an Indian garment manufacturer faces a cost disadvantage rendering it uncompetitive without even accounting for preferential market access that Bangladesh and Vietnam enjoy in some markets such as the European Union (EU). This cost disability is largely driven by two factors. Firstly, India levies high import duty on fabrics, especially synthetic fabrics (20 per cent in India compared to 12 per cent in Vietnam). Local fabric also sells at the landed price of imported fabric leading to higher raw material cost for the Indian garment manufacturer.

Additionally, cumbersome trade and Customs' procedures coupled with Quality Control Orders (QCOs) on import of Man Made Fibre (MMF) inputs have ensured that the cost of domestically produced MMF fabric is at least 20 per cent higher than internation-

al prices. Given that finished fabric accounts for 50 per cent of garment cost, the sub-optimal duty structure creates an unnecessary yet significant cost disability for the Indian exporter. While the Indian Government tries to offset this disadvantage through Duty Drawback and Refund of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme, it would be much simpler to just rationalize the duty on fabrics. If the intent is to strengthen the synthetic textile ecosystem in India (the infant industry protection argument), there is ample evidence across economic literature to show that such protection simply perpetuates the local industry to remain subscale and inefficient.

Targeted incentives to help scale up the local MMF textile ecosystem will yield much better results than distorting prices in the value chain. Secondly, India's minimum wage at \$0.7/hr (compared to \$0.5/hr in Bangladesh and \$0.8/hr in Vietnam) is amplified by overtime rates at 2x the regular wage rate (Bangladesh and Vietnam overtime rates are 1.5x), stringent ceiling on overtime hours/week and lower worker productivity due to efficiency and quality disadvantages driven by lack of manufacturing scale (India's largest garment factories employ 2,000-3,000 workers compared to 10,000-20,000 workers in Bangladeshi and Vietnamese factories).

After accounting for the regulatory burden and scale-based inefficiencies, and incorporating statutory contributions, India's effective wage rate jumps to \$1.4/hr and compares unfavourably with Bangladesh (\$0.6/hr) and Vietnam (\$1.1/hr). For an industry where labour accounts for 25-30 per cent of total cost, this ensures that Indian garment exports remain uncompetitive.

This brings us back to the Employment Linked Incentive. While the incentive to the employer (up to Rs 3000/man-month for two years under and part reimbursement of employer Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) contributions for four years for first time employees), will address India's labour cost disability to an extent.

But it must be noted that these are temporary fixes, come at a substantial cost, and most importantly, do not address the structural and completely self-imposed reasons for the disability in the first place viz. high barriers on raw material import coupled with high regulatory burden on hiring labour in India. Until we address these, India's sub-optimal performance in garment exports, an area where India has a right to win on account of its factor endowments, will continue unabated and the Vision of \$100 billion exports by 2030 will remain a distant dream.

(The writers are, respectively, Programme Associate and Associate Partner at the Foundation for Economic Development.)

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024 Relief Commissioner reviews preparations for Assembly Elections-2024



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani today chaired a meeting with Relief Organization officers and political party representatives to review preparations for the upcoming Assembly Elections-2024. Dr Karwani emphasized on ensuring all requisite Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all designated Special Polling Stations viz. permanent ramps, drinking water, toilet facilities as per norms of Election Commission of India. He emphasized on

reaching out to the voters and ensuring all necessary facilitation. Pertinent to mention that the Election Commission of India Vide Notification No-3/J&K-LA/2024 dated 22-08-2024, has notified the scheme for Kashmiri Migrants to Vote in person at notified Special Polling Stations and voting by means of postal ballots pertaining to the General Election to Assembly Constituencies falling in Kashmir Province of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. As per the notified scheme 19 Special Polling Stations in Jammu and 01 in Udhampur have been mapped to the Camps/Zones individual-

ly, ensuring that every Zone has atleast one special polling station. The intra-zonal jurisdiction for each such polling station has been earmarked keeping in mind the distance/ease of approach for each set of electors. All electors within seven days of the notification of the draft electoral roll extract, can approach the respective Assistant Returning Officers (Migrant) at Jammu and Udhampur, or their respective Zonal Officers (Nodal Officers)/Booth Level Officers (BLO's), in case his/her name does not figure in the draft electoral roll extract, or in case any elector wishes to

opt for voting through postal ballot or vote at original polling station in Kashmir valley.

Further, Deputy Director Horticulture (P&M) and Deputy Secretary in the Office of Resident Commissioner, have also been appointed as the ARO for the receipt of applications, conduct of poll etc at the special polling stations provided in Delhi.

Any 'notified voter' who wishes to vote by post is required to make an application for postal ballot in Form 12-C appended to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to any of the AROs at least 10 days before the date of poll in the in the Assembly constituency in which he is registered as elector.

The ARO Migrant at Jammu has been made solely responsible for handling these applications.

Dr Karwani, appreciated the suggestions put forth by the representatives of political parties, regarding facilitation of migrant voters.

Election Observers for Srinagar hold meetings with Returning Officers, staff of FSTs, SSTs, VVTs, VRTs

Direct ROs to reach out to every voter for maximum participation in festival of democracy



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Election Observers for District Srinagar, Capt. Pradeep Shoury Arya and Subodh Singh held a comprehensive meeting with Returning Officers (ROs) of 08 Assembly Constituencies and Flying Squad Teams (FST), Static Surveillance Teams (SST), Video Recording Teams (VRT) and Video Viewing Teams (VVT) for smooth conduct of Assembly Elections-2024 in Srinagar. The meeting was attended by Returning Officers of Assembly segments of 19-Hazratbal Syed Ahmad Kataria, 20-Khanyar Aijaz Ahmad Shah, 21-Haba Kadal Ghulam Jeevani Zargar, 22-Lal Chowk Amir Choudhary, 23-Chanapora Suhail ul Islam, 24-Zadibal Khaild Hussain, 25-Eidgah Bashir Ahmad Paddar, & 26-Central Shalteng Muzamil Maqbool besides Deputy District Election Officer and other officers of various teams. The Observers on the occasion stressed on exhaustive SVEEP activities for motivation and mobilization of voters for enthusiastic participation in Assembly Elections.

They underlined that each voters counts and urged Returning Officers to reach out to every voter through ground staff to build confidence through motivational techniques to encourage the electorate to come for vote.

Observers directed ROs to conduct interactive sessions with candidates & political parties to sensitize them with rate charts and media guidelines. They told the staff of various teams that their role is vital to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. The officers were informed that the district administration conducted many SVEEP activities at prime places in an endeavor to increase the participation of people in electoral process.

ROs briefed Observers about the demography of their respective constituencies, number of voters, percent of male & female voters, first time voters, number of transgender voters, senior citizens, service voters, migrant voters besides model polling stations including Pink, Green, Youth & PwD and collection & distribution centres.

Observers asked Officers to take their responsibility seriously and maintain standard registers to keep record of all the material.

Besides, the participants were asked to remain accessible to all and ensure effective communication with each other to address any issue.

Govt. College of Education, Srinagar celebrates National Sports Day

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Department of Physical Education, Govt. College of Education (GCoE), M.A. Road, Srinagar today celebrated National Sports Day with great fervour and excitement.

The programme was dedicated to the memory of Hockey Player Major Dhyan Chand, recognizing his remarkable contributions to bringing pride to the nation on the international stage.

On the occasion, a number of activities were held to encourage student engagements, highlight the value of sportsmanship and physical fitness, and promote the importance of an active lifestyle. The culmination of the events included an awards ceremony where Trophies were distributed among the participants for their accomplishment.

DC Udhampur chairs NCORD meeting

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination NCORD mechanism to review and strengthen the measures in place to combat drug abuse

in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Ranjeet Singh Kotwal along with other senior officers from various

line departments.

A threadbare discussion was held on surveillance of educational institutions, the implementation of awareness programmes, Nasha Mukta Panchayats and identification of hotspots of drug abuse. Detailed deliberations were held on the measures currently being undertaken within the district.

Assembly Elections-2024: Police, General Observers inspect Strong Rooms, Election Facilities in Doda District

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

In preparation for the upcoming General Assembly Election 2024, the General Observer Aditya Negi and Police Observer Dharamvir for Doda District conducted a thorough inspection of Strong Rooms for AC-51 (Bhaderwah), AC-52 (Doda), and AC-53 (Doda West) here today.

The observers were accompanied by District Election Officer (DEO) Harvinder Singh, DIG DKR Shridhar Patil and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mohd Aslam, besides Returning Officers and other election officials. The inspection aimed to ensure that all arrangements are in place for the secure storage and management of election materials and to assess the preparedness of the district for the first phase of the Assembly elections 2024.

In addition to inspecting the strong rooms, the observers also visited key facilities including the



Media Cell, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC), Election Control Room, and Video Viewing Room, ensuring that all systems are in place for effective communication and monitoring during the elections. Dharamvir emphasized the importance of robust security measures and coordination among various departments to facilitate a smooth electoral process. Aditya Negi added "The preparations are on track, and we are dedicated to upholding the democratic process through vigilant oversight."

The inspection focused on the

evaluation of security protocols, logistical arrangements, and infrastructure at Strong Rooms. Special emphasis was placed on fortifying security measures to safeguard against potential threats.

The Police Observer was comprehensively briefed by the officers present regarding the security measures and other arrangements in place, and it was informed that the district administration had diligently implemented all necessary measures in compliance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

Assembly Elections-2024: General, Police & Expenditure Observers review Election preparedness at Shopian



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

In order to review the preparation of the District Administration for upcoming Assembly elections to Legislative Assembly, 2024, General Observer for 37- Shopian, Roohi Khan; 36- Zainapora, Jeevan Babu K; Police Observer, Ravi D Channannavar and Expenditure Observer, Nelapatla Ashok Babu today held meeting with Nodal Officers, ROs and other stakeholder departments at Mini Secretariat Shopian. These high ranking officers, deputed by Election Commission of India are on round the clock election duty in the district to ensure the smooth and peaceful

conduct of the election process in the district. During the comprehensive review, conducted by Observers, all arrangements of District Election Management Plan including logistics, material management, training manpower, Enforcement of MCC, SVEEP activities, EVM randomisation, transport plan, security, expenditure monitoring, receipt and dispatch of material were reviewed and directions given to increase the preparedness level.

General Observer for Shopian, Roohi Khan directed for increasing the SVEEP activities across the villages and towns of district, targeting voters by involving local communities and field functionaries like AWWs, BLOs and ASHAs for

enhanced voter turnout. She emphasised on the role of nodal officer and ROs to ensure smooth and impactful conduct of elections under the overall control of DEO Shopian.

Roohi Khan appreciated the efforts of the district administration for the transparent conduct of elections.

The Police Observer also deliberated on the vital aspects of elections especially regarding security of poll parties. Expenditure Observer, on the occasion took stock of expenditure monitoring of the election process and asked for mobilising the FSTs vigorously and enhancing their performance to ensure adherence to norms.

DEO Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb on the occasion briefed the Observers through PPT on the various facets of District Election Management Plan and apprised that the administration is committed to maintain transparency and efficiency throughout the election period.

All necessary arrangements are in place to ensure a free and fair election, with the observers providing continuous oversight, he said.

The meeting was attended by SSP, ADDC, ADC, ROs, NOS, AROs and other concerned.

3 day Annual Kailash Yatra begins in Bhadarwah amid religious fervor, festivity

Thousands of devotees leave for Holy Kailash Kund with Charri Mubarak from ancient Vasuki Nag temple, Gatha

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

BHADARWAH, AUGUST 30: Charri Mubarak of three day annual Holy Kailash Yatra left for Kailash Kund from the ancient Vasuki Nag Temple, Gatha in Bhaderwah today.

Amidst the chanting of slogans in praise of Vasuki Nag deity, the Yatra passed through the Bhaderwah town where SSP Doda Mohd Aslam, ASP Bhadarwah Vinod Sharma, SDPO Bhadarwah Wasim Jamdani and SHO Bhadarwah Sandeep Parihar, President Sanathan Dharm Sabha, tehsil officers and a large number of locals accorded a warm send off to the pilgrims.

After a night stay at Hayan (Nalthi), the Yatra will reach at the holy destination on August 31, 2024.

There, the devotees will take a dip in the sacred water of Kailash dal. After performing religious rituals, the yatra will start its return journey to Bhaderwah on 01 September 2024. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the convenience of the devotees, including medical teams with sufficient medicines, first aid, drinking water, power through generator sets, firewood, tents for pilgrims and all other allied facilities including fool-proof security arrangements for smooth conduct of the yatra. Pertinent to mention here that several Charri Mubarak are taking different routes from Kellar, Chhattargala and Sevaj dhar etc. to reach Holy Kailash Kund.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

CEO office J&K conducts conference of UT, Districts ICONS to boost voter participation

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

With a mission to boost maximum participation of electorates in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections commencing from 18th of September, 2024, the Chief Electoral Office (CEO) J&K on Saturday conducted a conference of UT/Districts ICONS through Online Mode.

The conference was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Rahul Sharma at Nirvachan Bhawan, Jammu, in presence of Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal Officer SVEEP and Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media.

The UT ICONS and influencers along with District Level Social Media ICONS coming from various fields of achievements including singing, music, sports, literature, technology, social work and others participated in the conference virtually.

The aim of the conference was to create awareness among the masses in connection with upcoming J&K Assembly Elections 2024 to be held in 3 phases across the 90 Assembly Constituencies commencing from 18 September, 2024 and especially those who are the first time voters.

During the conference, the UT ICONS were urged to educate and influence the voters to participate the biggest democratic exercise of the J&K UT by using their skills and experience.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Rahul Sharma exhorted the ICONS to target Young Voters, PwDs, Tribals, slum dwellers, women, weaker sections and old age voters to ensure their maximum participation in the elections.

On the occasion, Nodal Officer SVEEP gave some tips to the participants in creating video and audio messages for the masses and their publicity over the social platforms.

The messages should be completely neutral to achieve the target and not favour or disregard to any political party or candidate, he maintained.

Enforcement agencies seize cash, drugs, liquor worth Rs 5.71 crore in first 12 days of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct

Committed to uphold the sanctity of electoral process: J&K CEO

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In its mission to uphold the sanctity of electoral process and to accomplish the mission of Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide an equitable field to all the contestants in the forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election 2024, the enforcement agencies across the J&K Union Territory seized Rs 5.71 crore worth of cash and other material including drugs and liquor in first 12 days of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct.

The cash and other freebies seized were meant for influencing the voters during the J&K Assembly Election which are scheduled to commence from 18 September, 2024 in 3 phas-

es across the Union Territory where in above 88 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their electoral franchise.

"From the date of announcement of General Election to Legislative Assembly of J&K by Election Commission of India, Rs 5.71 crores worth drugs, cash and liquor have been seized by various enforcement agencies in J&K UT in first 12 days of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct", a statement from the office of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer said. Major department-wise seizures included seizures by Police Department valuing Rs 5.02 crore, SGST/CT Rs 52 lakhs and NCB worth Rs 11 lakhs.

The Election Department appreciated the efforts made by the Enforcement Agencies to ensure free

and fair Assembly elections across the UT. The Statement said that to monitor various election-related activities and also check Model Code of Conduct compliance, a Command and Control Room has been established at the CEO office in Jammu and Srinagar. Similar mini-control rooms have also been established in every DEO office which are functioning 24 x 7. All electronic media channels, social media platforms are monitored here, any violation so detected, is reported and the concerned RO/ ARO issues notice.

Apart from looking for Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations, the Control room also has live feed of all 100 percent Polling Stations and GPS vehicle tracking of all vehicles being used for poll parties.

Delayed Postal Ballot Notice & VSPS stamp of Minority Community in Kashmir

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Girdhari Lal Raina, former MLC and spokesperson of the BJP JK-UT has expressed concern over delay in dispatching the postal ballots to the electors belonging to the Displaced Community from Kashmir for the forthcoming election to the Legislative Assembly of Jammu Kashmir. In a communication to CEO J&K sh. Pandurang K Pole IAS Raina raised this issue. He further added that besides delay in dispatching of postal ballots to the eligible electors from Kashmir the incom-

plete/insufficient address written on the envelope in which the voter has to send back his vote, as was experienced during recently held Lok Sabha election 2024, needs to be rectified in advance to avoid rejection of such envelopes by the Department of Postal services.

Postal Service Department also needs to be alerted in time to help them put required mechanisms in place so that these postal ballots reach their destination in time, Ex-MLC stressed.

Former MLC GL Raina also raised the issues confronted by the voters of the minority community in Kashmir

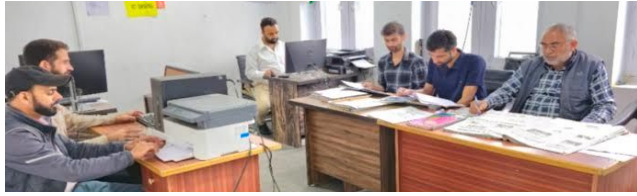
who stayed back in valley in 1989-90 or and didn't leave even thereafter. These voters were denied their fundamental Right to vote during the Lok Sabha election 2024 as the marked voter list with presiding officers and polling staff had been stamped VSPS against their names.

Their names exist on electoral rolls of their respective polling booths including the marked voter list but due to VSPS stamp they were asked to vote at special polling booths created for the displaced community in Jammu, Udhampur and NCR Delhi BJP Prabhari of Kashmir Displaced District explained.



ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

MCMC, District Election Media Centre, Election control room set up at Kupwara



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

In order to ensure a smooth, transparent and fair electoral process in Kupwara district for conduct of upcoming General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC), District Election Media Centre and District Election Control Room (DECR) have been established at District Information office

Kupwara as mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI), marking a significant step to ensure a transparent and fair electoral process in the district.

The District MCMC is headed by DEO Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan.

The district level MCMC has been set up to ensure that all media content complies with ECI guidelines. The MCMC will also provide certification after scrutinizing Political Advertisements to be tele-

cast/ broadcast over TV/ Radio Channels/ Audio – Video displays/ Internet based media/ Websites including Social Media, e-papers and Cable Network during General assembly Elections.

A dedicated email ID dickupwara131@gmail.com has been established for the purpose.

Similarly, the District Election Media Centre is also fully operational with the important responsibility of disseminating real-time information related to

the election process to the public, media, political parties and other stakeholders, ensuring that all election-related developments are communicated effectively to the public. The Number of District Election Media Centre is 01955-252203.

A 24x7 District Election Control Room is also currently in operation and is functioning round the clock to manage various aspects of the electoral process and facilitate the electorate of the District with the relevant information.

The Control Room is responsive and responding to the queries and questions on any aspect of electioneering. The numbers for the District Election Control Room are 1950, 01955-253564.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

DM Reasi chairs district level Narco Coordination Committee meeting



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

A meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) was convened under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan at DC Office Complex, here today. During the meeting, the DM emphasised to follow "Prevent First, Eradicate Next" approach.

The meeting focused on assessing ongoing initiatives and enhancing collaborative endeavours to combat the menace of drug abuse. Every department provided an overview of action taken under NCORD meeting decisions in Reasi.

The DM also directed departments to ensure safety of female staff working in Rehabilitation and de-addiction centers. Recognizing the pivotal role of education in prevention, he instructed the institutions to organise mass awareness programs in schools and colleges. He highlighted the important role of forming youth clubs at panchayat level. SSP Reasi Gaurav Sikarwar, ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Kulbhushan Khajuria, PO (ICDS) Mohd Anwar Bandy, Addl. SP Iftekhar Ahmed, ACD Pradeep Kumar, DSWO, Principals, CEO, DIO (info), Tehsildars and other concerned officers were present.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

JK Election Deptt conducts awareness program under SVEEP at Govt MAM College



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a spirited effort to boost awareness among the electorates and the participation of youth in forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024, the Election Department on Friday organised an awareness program at Government MAM PG College, Jammu under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer of SVEEP was the Chief Guest and Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media was the Guest of Honour at the program.

Both the officers imparted awareness which aims to strengthen the visibility, outreach, and effectiveness of SVEEP activities across the J&K Union Territory. The program also focused around the critical importance of voter participation, especially the First Time Voters among the youth. Both the officers expressed confidence that this initiative would significantly improve the voter awareness, particularly among First Time Voters, marginalized communities, and rural areas, fostering greater inclusivity and positively contributing to the democratic process. During the program, the Booth Level Officer (BLOs) shared and discussed the innovative ideas and strategic plans which will significantly increase the voter participation in the upcoming Assembly elections which are scheduled to be held across the UT in 3 phases commencing on 18 September, 2024.

National Lok Adalat on 14th September at DCC Mominabad, Srinagar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

On the directions of Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) endorsed by Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar is going to hold 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2024 at District Court Complex (DCC) Srinagar on 14th September, 2024. The National Lok Adalat shall be held for amicable settlement of

pre-Litigation and post Litigation cases. Pre -Litigation cases include NI Act cases under Section 138, Bank Recovery matters, Labour disputes cases, Electricity and Water bills (excluding non-Compoundable), Other (Criminal Compoundable, Matrimonial and other civil disputes).

While pending in courts cases include Criminal Compoundable offence, NI Act cases under Section 138, Bank Recovery matters, MACT cases, Labour disputes cases, Electricity and Water bills (excluding

non-Compoundable), Matrimonial cases, Land Acquisition cases, Other civil cases (rent, easementary rights, injunctions suit, specific performance suit) etc.

Meanwhile, it is notified that all concerned parties/advocates who desire to get their cases/ disputes/claims settled through this National Lok Adalat may approach District Legal Services Authority Srinagar by or before 06/09/2024, so that their cases/claims/disputes can be settled amicably through this National Lok Adalat.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

Female employees imparted specialized training for Pink Booths in Poonch



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

In a significant step towards empowering women in the electoral process, District Election Office Poonch Vikas Kundal organized a dedicated training session for female staff appointed to manage Pink Booths. The training, held in the auditorium of Degree College Poonch, is part of preparations for

the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the session, the District Election Officer emphasized the vital role of Pink Booths in fostering greater female participation in the democratic process. These booths, staffed entirely by women, are designed to provide a comfortable and secure voting environment for female voters. The trained employees will be deployed across

the three Assembly constituencies in Poonch District, ensuring that these booths operate smoothly and efficiently on Election Day.

A key focus of the training was on making the polling stations more women-friendly which includes creating a welcoming and secure environment, ensuring privacy, and addressing any specific need which female voters might have. The DEO highlighted the importance of these measures for boosting female voter turnout and empowering women to actively participate in the electoral process.

The session covered various aspects of election management, including voter verification, EVM handling, and maintaining transparency and impartiality.

The DEO encouraged the participants to adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and be always vigilant in upholding electoral norms. The training concluded with an interactive Q&A, allowing participants to clarify their doubts and discuss potential challenges.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

SVEEP Campaign: Cultural activities engage students across Doda district



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Program team has adopted an innovative approach to promote electoral awareness among school students in Doda District. Cultural activities are being organised across the district, engaging young minds and

encouraging them to participate in the democratic process.

The SVEEP awareness programs are being held in Doda District, under the guidance of District Election Officer Harvinder Singh and under overall supervision of Chief Education Officer Parkash Lal Thapa who is also a Nodal Officer SVEEP. The events featured a series of cultural performances, including

songs, dances, skits, quiz and debates, all focusing on the theme of electoral participation and civic engagement.

Students of different schools are enthusiastically participating in the activities, showcasing their talent and creativity, while learning about the importance of voting and democratic processes.

The SVEEP campaign aims to empower young citizens to become informed and active participants in the electoral process. By engaging students in cultural activities, the campaign seeks to promote electoral literacy, encourage critical thinking, and foster a sense of civic responsibility.

The SVEEP campaign's cultural activities have received an overwhelming response from students and teachers alike, and are expected to make a significant impact on electoral awareness and civic engagement in the District.

Assembly Elections-2024: DEO Rajouri inspects Strong Rooms, election arrangements



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma inspected the strong rooms designated for the Assembly Constituencies (AC) of Rajouri and Thanamandi here today. The inspections were carried out at the Government Degree College (GDC) Rajouri for AC Rajouri and at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Rajouri for Thanamandi AC.

The DEO emphasized the importance of stringent security measures and directed officials to maintain log book registers at the strong rooms. He instructed that CCTV cameras be strategically placed to focus directly on the locks of the strong rooms, ensuring continuous surveillance.

Further instructions were issued for the safety and integrity of the strong rooms, including the proper wiring around the rooms, ensuring single entrance for entry, preventing any dampness around the premises,

and conducting a thorough fire audit of all strong rooms.

The DEO also reviewed the parking management for vehicles deployed for election duties, stressing the need for an efficient distribution plan that prioritizes the farthest polling stations.

In addition to these measures, DEO Abhishek Sharma directed the concerned authorities to carry out Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities within the College to enhance voter awareness and participation.

He also directed to nominate the Nodal Officer of the Dispatch and Receipt centre (DCRC) and also adhere strictly to the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India (ECI) while performing their duties.

Accompanying the DEO during the inspection were Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir Khan; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Thanamandi, Abid Hussain; Executive Engineer PWD, Sardar Khan; District Information Officer Rajouri, Ashiq Rafiq Malik; and other district and sectoral officers.

Sood, Koul address review meeting, assign new responsibilities to party leaders

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

BJP J&K conducted a review meeting for the Assembly elections 2024 at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ashish Sood, Seh-Prabhari J&K BJP and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) J&K BJP addressed the meeting, which was attended by Prabharis and cell Incharges. During the meeting, sen-

ior leaders were assigned the party responsibilities for the Assembly elections 2024.

Venu Khanna is assigned duty as the Election Office Incharge.

Abhijeet Jasrotia is assigned duty as the social media Prabhari.

Rajni Sethi is assigned duty to look after the BJP organizational District Kishtwar. Baldev Singh Billawaria will look after BJP organizational District Doda. Adv. Abhinav Sharma will look after BJP organiza-

tional District Reasi.

Veid Prakash will look after BJP organizational District Akhnoor.

Naryan Singh, Keshav Dutt, Amar Singh will look after BJP organizational District Samba.

Vinay Gupta, Ravi Bakshi will look after BJP organizational District Jammu North.

Pradeep Sharma will look after Poonch and Mendhar. Sanjeet Sharma is assigned duty as the District Incharge Basohli.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

ECI appoints Expenditure Observers for 08 Assembly Constituencies of Sgr District

Stakeholders can approach Expenditure Observers for any expenditure query or election related complaint on their contact numbers

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In view of the General Elections to Legislative Assembly in J&K, the Election Commission of India has appointed Capt. Pradeep Shoury Arya and Subodh Singh as Expenditure Observers for all 08 Assembly Constituencies of District Srinagar. As per a notice issued here, Capt. Pradeep Shoury Arya has been appointed as Expenditure Observer for 19- Hazratbal, 20- Khanyar, 21- Habbakadal and 22- Lal Chowk constituencies.

Similarly, Subodh Singh has been appointed as Expenditure Observer for 23- Chanapora, 24- Zaidibal, 25- Eidgah and 26- Central Shalteng.

In order to ensure free, fair, transparent and smooth conduct of elections, the District Election Officer Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has notified that all stakeholders can approach the Expenditure Observers Capt. Pradeep Shoury Arya (8899744409) and Subodh Singh (9906883393) on their respective contact numbers in case of any information, issue or grievance regarding expenditure query or complaint related to elections.

Meanwhile, stakeholders can also file grievances on C-vigil App.

Major General RK Sachdeva Visits Pre-TSC-III Camp at Nagrota, Inspires Cadets with Leadership and Motivation



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NAGROTA:

Major General RK Sachdeva, Additional Director General (ADG) of the JK&L Directorate of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), visited the Pre-TSC-III Camp at the NCC Training Academy in Nagrota. During his visit, he interacted with 490 cadets undergoing rigorous training, providing them with invaluable insights into leadership, discipline, and resilience.

The visit was highlighted by Major General Sachdeva's engagement with the cadets, observing their training, and delivering an inspirational address that resonated deeply with the young leaders of tomorrow.

In his speech, he underscored several key principles that are crucial for personal and professional growth. He began by emphasizing that small, consistent improvements can have a significant long-term impact. He also stressed the importance of teamwork, noting that success in any endeavor is often the result of collaborative efforts.

The General Officer praised the dedication and passion with which the camp was planned and conducted, acknowledging the system and best practices in place for running such a comprehensive training program. One of the core messages Major General Sachdeva conveyed was the importance of overcoming fear and facing challenges head-on. He encouraged the cadets to view challenges as opportunities, highlighting that the true test of character is often revealed in tough moments. Achieving excellence in small tasks, he noted, is fundamental to building confidence and capacity.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024 Arrangements finalized for filing Nomination Papers under Phase-II at Ganderbal



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
GANDERBAL:

To ensure a smooth and efficient filing of nomination papers which starts from 29 August, 2024 under phase-II in Ganderbal District, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Gulzar Ahmad today convened a crucial meeting to finalize arrangements for the smooth filing of nominations for Assembly Constituency 18-Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (RO for Ganderbal Constituency), M Altaf, ARTO, DySP Traffic, EO Municipal Council Ganderbal, LDM and other officials. During the meeting, the ADC conducted a comprehensive review of various logistical arrangements to ensure an orderly nomination process. Key areas discussed included parking arrangements, appointment of magistrates, traffic management, security and establishment of a Help Desk besides cleanliness of the premises,

signage placement and other related aspects.

The Executive Officer of the Municipal Council was instructed to maintain proper cleanliness both within and outside the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal premises where RO room has been established. The ARTO Ganderbal was directed to ensure the proper parking of vehicles belonging to candidates in the designated parking area. Dy.SP Traffic was instructed to ensure smooth traffic management in the town during the period of Nomination process.

Similarly, the Police department was directed to ensure proper security arrangements are put in place during these days. In addition, the R&B Department was tasked with placing appropriate signage at key locations for the convenience of candidates. The RO informed the meeting that a Help Desk has been established adjacent to the RO room to facilitate the candidates during the nomination process. The ADC emphasized the importance of adhering strictly to the guidelines laid down by the Election Commission of India throughout the nomination process.

Assembly Elections-2024: DEO Anantnag reviews Election Preparedness

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG:

The District Election Officer (DEO) Anantnag, Dr. SF. Hamid today held a comprehensive meeting with all Nodal Officers to review the district's election preparedness which is scheduled to undergo polls under the phase I on 18th of September, 2024. The review was aimed to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place for the upcoming General Legislative Assembly elections. During the meeting various aspects of the election process, including the readiness of polling stations, availability of election materials, training of polling staff, status of Flying Squad Teams, Static Surveillance Teams, Media Certification and Monitoring Committees, Model Code of Conduct adherence, Expenditure Monitoring, and the functioning of the Control



Room. Nodal Officers presented updates on their respective areas, highlighting any challenges and progress made. The discussion focused on fine-tuning operational plans, addressing potential issues, and ensuring that all teams are well-coordinated. DEO emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of transparency and efficiency throughout the election process. The

review underscored the commitment of the election authorities to conduct a fair and well-organised election. This proactive approach by the District Administration and the Nodal Officers reflects the district administration's dedication to ensuring a successful electoral process, aiming to uphold democratic values and provide a seamless experience for voters.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024 SVEEP: Various activities to promote Voter awareness held at GDC Khansahib

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

The Electoral Literacy Club and NSS unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Khansahib Wednesday conducted different Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) related activities, here. The activities were organized under the patronage

of college Principal, Dr. Nargis Bano. At the outset, the Principal of the College welcomed and appreciated NSS volunteers for actively participating in voter awareness programs.

The participants were administered voters pledge by Dr. Sajad Padder, NSS Program Officer at the institution. Thereafter, Dr. Sajad spoke on the importance of voting for ensuring efficiency, sustainabili-

ty, development and accountability in a democratic set-up.

He also trained the students about the Voter Helpline Application which provides different services online viz. Registration as voter, deletion or correction of EPIC details through form 6, form 7 and form 8. At the end of the program, a quiz competition on voter awareness was also conducted.

Two days National Sports Day observed at GDC Marh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Department of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with NSS unit under the patronage of Principal Government Degree College Marh, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, organized intramural competition of three games namely Chess, Badminton and Carrom in commemoration of Major Dhyan Chand (Hockey Legend) w.e.f 28th to 29th Aug 2024. In this competition, the students from Sem-Vth and Sem-IIIrd participated in Chess, Badminton and Carrom (Men & Women). The Principal Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul who was the chief guest, inaugurated the event. He encouraged the students to inculcate discipline, sportsmanship to take J&K to new heights. He also played the inaugural match of Badminton, Chess and Carrom with students for their encouragement.

A Fit India pledge was also taken by all participants and staff members. In Chess competition Silver medal won by Gourav Kumar (B.A Sem 3rd sem) and Gold medal clinched by Aayush Shan (5th sem). In carrom women section silver medal bagged by Reena Sharma and Simran Chover (5th sem) and Gold medal clinched by Sanjana Devi and Mishu Devi from (B.A 5th sem).

In Badminton (Women Double) Silver Medal won by Riya Sharma and Sneha Bhagat (sem 3rd Sem) and Gold Medal clinched Sanjana Devi and Mishu Devi from (5th sem). In Badminton (Men Double) Bronze Medal got by Gorav Kumar, Pranav Sharma, Ketan Kumar and Rohit Kumar from B.A 3rd Sem, Silver medal was won by Summy Kumar and Bobby Kumar Baitha Sem 5th and Gold Medal bagged by Abhishek Bhat and Aayush Shan from Sem B.Sc 5th.

J&K has moved from stones to laptop: Chugh Challenge Abdullah, Mufti's for a debate: Tarun Chugh

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

BJP leader national General Secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also party in charge for J&K, said that PM Modi has brought about a historic transition in J&K. He said a new era had set in for the people where J&K had transformed from stones to laptops.

He dared Abdullah's, Mufti's and Gandhi's to have an open debate with BJP on the situation J&K witnessed post August 5, 2019. "I am ready for an open debate with Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti and those from the Gandhi family. Let the media decide time and venue," Chugh said while addressing a press conference in Jammu. He said let Omar and Mehbooba debate with us on what has changed post abrogation of article 370. "We have the official figures on terror incidents, civilian killings, security forces' killings and stone pelting incidents before August 5, 2019 and post August 5, 2019," said Chugh who was flanked by Union Minister GK Reddy, Union MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh, MP Jugal Kishore and other leaders. He said in 2018, 55 civilian killings took place and there were only 23 in 2023 and just 14 in 2024 so far. "Similarly, in 2018, 90 security forces personnel were killed but in 2023 there were only 30 and the number has gone down to just 14 in 2024," he said, adding that once there were 1328 stone pelting incidents a year and in 2023 and 2024 no stone pelting incident has taken place.

Assembly Elections-2024: Workshop/ Training programme for Political Parties on Election Process held at Bandipora



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

In preparation for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly 2024, a comprehensive workshop-cum-training programme for political parties, addressing crucial aspects of the electoral process, was conducted today at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The workshop focused on the nomination process, qualifications and disqualifications, the use of IT applications, monitoring of election expenditure, and related issues such as the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) and paid news.

The workshop was presided over by RO-15 Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani, and attended by Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring, Sheikh Aabid Manzoor, Nodal Officer MCMC, Aadil Manzoor Wani, ARO

Aloosa, ARO Bandipora and representatives from various political parties and their technical teams to ensure clarity and compliance with electoral regulations.

Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring led an in-depth session on election expenditure. He outlined the legal limits on campaign expenditure and emphasized the importance of maintaining a transparent and accurate account of all expenses. The session also covered the necessity of keeping separate bank accounts for election funds and maintaining detailed account registers to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, District Level Master Trainer (DLMT), provided a detailed explanation of the nomination process. He deliberated on the requirements for a valid nomination, including the documentation and forms that candidates must

complete and submit. The session aimed to guide political parties and candidates through the procedural requirements to avoid any potential issues with their nominations.

Superintendent ITI, Sahil Rashid, highlighted the role of information technology in elections. He provided insights into various IT applications that are being used to streamline and manage the election process effectively. He elaborated on the use of SUVIDHA, cVIGIL, Saksham-ECI, and other election-related apps, emphasizing the importance of leveraging technology to enhance transparency, efficiency and accessibility in elections.

On the occasion, ARO Aloosa discussed various election-related processes, including the allotment of symbols, and emphasized the importance of proper understanding and adherence to electoral laws and regulations for smooth and successful elections.

Speaking on the occasion, RO-15 Bandipora stated that the workshop aimed to ensure a smooth and transparent electoral process in Bandipora, besides ensuring that all participants understand the electoral procedures and regulations. He added that such workshops serve as a valuable platform for addressing queries and providing guidance to political parties.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SVEEP Awareness programme held at BMS Katrasoo, Kulgam

Senior Citizens & youngsters participate in the programme with immense enthusiasm

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KULGAM:

The Nodal Officer for Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), Kulgam-AC, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat conducted a successful interactive session at BMS Katrasoo, Kulgam, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of voting.

The event saw active participation from senior citizens, men, women, and youngsters, reflecting the community's keen interest in the democratic process. During the session, Nodal Officer emphasized the pivotal role of every vote in the democratic system, encouraging participants to exercise their right to vote in the forthcoming elections.

He provided a clear explanation of the voting procedure, addressing concerns and ensuring that all attendees felt confident about their participation. The session aimed to dispel any doubts and motivate citizens to engage actively in the electoral process. Adding to the engagement, cultural programs were presented, which not only entertained but also highlighted the significance of civic responsibilities.

The performances were well-received and added a vibrant touch to the event.

The event concluded with a collective commitment to active participation in the electoral process, marking it as a significant step toward strengthening democracy at the grassroots level.

RO 65-Basohli AC chairs meeting with Nodal Officers



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KATHUA:

The Returning Officer, Valobashi AC, Anil Kumar Thakur (ADC) today reviewed election related preparations, here at meeting of election staff.

The meeting was attended by ARO Basohli, Sagar Vishwakarma (Tehsildar), AERO Mahanpur, Radhika Sohan (Tehsildar) and other Nodal Officers entrusted with various election-related tasks such as the Model Code of Conduct, postal ballot papers, transport, EVMs, etc. In his address, the Returning Officer provided detailed information to the Nodal Officers about their responsibilities. He instructed the Nodal Officer in charge of the Model Code of Conduct to ensure strict enforcement of the code in the Basohli constituency and to take legal action against any violations. The officer also directed the nodal officer responsible for transport to create an efficient transport plan for polling parties to reach the polling booths.

The officer further instructed the AC SVEEP Nodal Officer to conduct awareness programs at various locations to encourage voters to exercise their right to vote. He asked the Election Expenditure Observer to keep a comprehensive record of the expenses incurred by different political parties during the election. He further directed the Nodal Officer handling postal ballots to prepare a list of citizens over 85 years of age and differently-abled individuals who are unable to reach the polling booths, ensuring that they can cast their votes from home.

The RO urged all Nodal Officers to diligently perform their duties to ensure that the elections are conducted transparently and fairly.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

General Observer for 37-Shopian takes stock of training of Polling Parties

Observes scrutiny process, meets stakeholders and chairs meeting with Nodal Officers, Zonal & Sector Magistrates

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SHOPIAN:

The General Observer for 37-Shopian, Roohi Khan today remained available at Mini Secretariat Shopian to review election related preparedness for 37-Shopian. At the outset, the General Observer visited Government Degree College, Shopian where she inspected the training process of polling parties. The Observer oversaw the training process and deliberated on various facets of the training process. While addressing the gathering of staff, she stressed on peer learning for maximising learning, training outcomes for the transparent conduct of elections.

She also emphasized upon staff on

performance of the vital election duties with great zeal and enthusiasm in a sense of team spirit and also instructed Nodal Officer, Trainings to train the new staff abundantly so as to equip them with necessary knowledge to handle the election process smoothly, to be held on September, 18.

The General Observer also listened to grievances of Specially-abled staff members and asked for resolving the grievance. She also supervised the scrutiny process of nominations.

Out of 13 nominations, 02 nominations were rejected due to shortage of mandatory formalities. Later, she also met representatives and agents of political parties, and discussed with them various issues, including advising them to make use

of cVigil app for any poll related grievances. She interacted with them and asked them to approach her for any issues regarding the elections. Roohi Khan also chaired a meeting with Zonal and Sector Magistrates and other stakeholders to review the preparedness for the upcoming elections. During the meeting, Observer took stock of arrangements and enquired about availability of assured minimum facilities and stressed on Zonal Magistrates to visit the polling stations and ensure all facilities for the staff and polling parties.

The Observer also asked for checking AMF available for Specially-abled voters in order to ensure accessible elections and enhanced voter participation.

Assembly Elections-2024: First round of training for Presiding Officers, Polling Officers commences in District Kishtwar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KISHTWAR:

In the run-up to Assembly Election 2024, the first round of training for Presiding Officers (POs) and Polling Officers commenced here today in District Kishtwar.

The training program was conducted under the overall supervision of District Election Officer Rajesh

Kumar Shavan and close supervision of AROs of three ACs at designated Centers.

As many as 854 POs and Polling Officers were imparted hands-on training by Nodal Officer Training Riyaz Ahmed Butt in coordination with District Level Master Trainers.

The polling staff was exhorted to understand and adhere to rules and regulations diligently and perform

their duties with utmost dedication, zeal and zest. Furthermore, emphasis was laid on maintaining mutual cooperation and support during the election process. Thrust was also placed on learning and strictly adhering to timeliness. The Master Trainers imparted training related to VVPAT/EVM and other election-related activities including documents.



General, Police Observers arrive in District Pulwama, chair preliminary meetings

Expenditure Observer reviews election preparedness in the District

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

Pulwama today saw the arrival of General Observers ; Manoj Kumar, Vadarevu Vinay Chand, Brajesh Narain Singh, Khartade Sudama Rao and Police Observer Akhlesh Kumar in view of the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly. Expenditure Observer, Srikanth N, who had arrived last week, is stationed in the district to oversee the expenditure monitoring of the election process.

These high ranking officers, deputed by Election Commission of India are on 24/7 duty in the district to ensure the smooth conduct of the election process.

District Election Officer (DEO), Pulwama; SSP Pulwama and SSP

Awantipora gave a detailed outline of preparations including manpower management, transport plan preparation of EVM, Nomination process and arrangements for prospective candidates and comprehensive security arrangements.

On their arrival, the Observers also took preliminary meetings and were briefed about their respective ACs by the Returning Officers and Nodal Officers. Later, General Observers and Expenditure Observer also visited District Control Hall and respective Assembly Constituencies.

All the Observers deployed in the District by the ECI reiterated the directions and guidelines of Election Commission of India for free, fair and participative election.

The administration is committed

to maintain transparency and efficiency throughout the election period, the observers were apprised.

All necessary arrangements are in place to ensure a free and fair election, with the Observers providing continuous oversight.

With the last date of nomination papers by August 27, 2024, Pulwama is all geared up for the Elections.

The scrutiny of nominations will be conducted on August 28, 2024, while August 30, 2024, has been set as the last date for the withdrawal of candidature. [Election Control Room, District Pulwama Toll-Free Numbers: 1950, 1800 180 7057, Phone Number: 01933 241043, Mobile Numbers: 94194 83813, 94194 83814, Mail ID: eccontrol-roompulwama@gmail.com

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS- 2024

SVEEP: District Admin Bandipora organises Blood Donation Camp

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

The District Administration Bandipora, on Tuesday organised a blood donation camp at N.M. Hr Secondary School, Kaloosa Bandipora as part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme. The blood donation camp was organized to encourage civic engagement and promote community service among voters and volunteers.

District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri; Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Kishore Kumar; Dy CEO/Nodal officer SVEEP, MS DH Bandipora and other concerned attended the camp.

The camp also witnessed participation of Brand Ambassador SVEEP activities, Padmashri Faisal Ali Dar.

Around 30 Booth Level Officers



(BLOs) and volunteers generously contributed by donating blood, demonstrating their commitment to electoral process besides more than 60 youth registered for blood donation. In his address, the DEO emphasised the purpose of the camp and said that this blood donation camp is not just a gesture of community support but also a strategic component of our SVEEP

activities to create a more informed electorate and enhance the overall democratic process.

He said that electoral awareness campaigns are aimed to foster a greater sense of responsibility among citizens and improve voter participation.

The event also highlighted the collaborative efforts of education, Health and other stakeholders.

Brahmpura Corresponds with Union Minister Gadkari, Calls for Fair Compensation in Bharatmala Expressway Project

Asr-Jammu-Katra Expressway development should prioritize job creation for youth and support for farmer communities, says Brahmpura

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
TARN TARAN :

Ravinder Singh Brahmpura, Senior Vice President of Shiromani Akali Dal, Chairman of Punjab Rural Development Society, and Former MLA from Khadoor Sahib Constituency, has penned a letter to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Mr. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, shedding light on the urgent matter of land compensation disparities within the Bharatmala project for the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway in Khadoor Sahib, Punjab. In his communication, Brahmpura emphasized the concerning issue of unequal compensation allocated to Jhander Mahapurkhan village in comparison

to neighboring regions, raising critical questions regarding the fair treatment of landowners and farmers in the area.

Brahmpura fervently appealed to the central government to swiftly intervene and ensure equitable compensation for all impacted villages, with particular emphasis on Jhander Mahapurkhan village in the Khadoor Sahib constituency. This village faces the acquisition of 72 acres of land for the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project, an area crucial for industrial development hosting major companies such as Nerolac Paint and various factories. The disparity in compensation amounts received by Jhander Mahapurkhan village has created uncertainties and hardships for

local landowners and farmers.

Brahmpura added his voice to the plea for fair and uniform compensation across all affected villages, including Jhander Mahapurkhan. Moreover, he advocated for the creation of job opportunities for one member of each affected farmer's family, recognizing agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. This initiative aims to safeguard the well-being and financial stability of the impacted families.

"This appeal for fair compensation exemplifies the necessity of equal treatment for all landowners. It underscores the imperative for immediate action and intervention from the relevant authorities to address and resolve such critical issues," stated Brahmpura.

NC, Cong don't want people to enjoy basic rights, development: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Thursday criticized the National Conference (NC) and Congress leaders for their recent statements advocating for the restoration of Article 370.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP stalwart leader argued that this stance clearly exposes the leadership of these parties as being out of touch with the aspirations of the people and shows that they do not want the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to enjoy the basic rights and development that the abrogation of Article 370 has brought about.

"By raising the issue of restoring Article 370, the NC and Congress have demonstrated that they are more concerned with their political survival than the welfare of the people. This stance is nothing short of regressive, as it seeks to undo the significant progress and integration that Jammu and Kashmir have experienced since the abrogation," he said while adding that Article 370 has empowered the people of the UT, granting them the same rights and opportunities as citizens in the rest of India.

"Article 370's abrogation has opened the doors to development and equal rights. The NC and Congress leadership, by pushing for its restoration, are effectively denying the people the benefits of this new era," he said and urged the people to reject the divisive politics of the NC and Congress and to stand firm in their support of the transformative changes that have taken place in the region.

He also reiterated the BJP's commitment to the development and prosperity of the region, stating that the party would continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every citizen enjoys the full benefits of being an integral part of India.

"The NC and Congress are living in the past, clinging to outdated ideas that have only served to keep the people of Jammu and Kashmir isolated and deprived. The people deserve better, and the BJP will continue to fight for their right to a better future," he maintained.

Sikh Progressive Front Express Deep Concern Over Hockey J&K's Dismal Performance & Management : Balvinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Today a Press Conference was organized by Sikh Progressive Front under the chairmanship of its President S Balvinder Singh where strong exception was conveyed to the Hockey lovers regarding the pitiable condition of the Hockey being represented by Hockey J&K, who were holding its affairs for the last more than twenty five years.

Despite being declared defunct body by the sports council of JKUT they are also debarred to use K.K Hakku Hockey Astroturf Stadium for their routine activities, because of their dismal performance in the previously held National level Hockey tournament and because of the mass resignation of most of their office bearers, they are still managing it privately without the concurrence of Sports Council of JKUT selecting the team at their own which resulted in the most humiliating defeats in both the categories of Men & Women in the recently held national Tournament at Jhansi under the ages of Hockey India. The detail of their dismayed performance quite visible and self explanatory: Recently in the sub junior Men and Women North Zone Hockey Championship held at Jhansi from 15 July to 22 July 2024, Hockey J&K failed to send his women team and in Men category Delhi defeated Hockey J&K 6-1, UP defeated HJKK 18-0 & Punjab drubbed HJK by margin of 15-0 and thus conceded 39 goals and could manage to score only 1 goal in three matches. Recently sub Junior Women hockey team from JKUT participated in Hockey India Junior Women North Zone Championship 2024 held from 1 August to 8th Aug.

BJP President J&K Ravinder Raina addressed a mega Public Rally at Kishtwar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

After the nomination filing of candidates from the Kishtwar area, BJP President of J&K, Ravinder Raina, addressed a large public rally in Kishtwar. Prominent leaders, including BJP general secretary (Org) Ashok Koul, former Deputy CM Nirmal Singh, BJP general secretary Sunil Sharma, BJP leader Tariq Keen, and BJP leader Shagun Parihar, among others, attended the event. Ravinder Raina expressed his deep connection to Kishtwar, say-



ing, "Whenever I come to Kishtwar, it feels like coming home. The peace and tranquility I experience here is akin to the comfort of being in my own home." He recalled his visits to the area in 2008 and 2014, emphasizing his long-

standing relationship with the region and its people. He stated that under the Modi government, Sunil Sharma served as a minister and MLA for only 3-4 years, but he has completely transformed the fate of Kishtwar. Due to

his efforts, roads, and electricity have reached every village, golden cards have been provided to the poor, and there has been development in every sector.

He further noted the positive changes in Kishtwar, mentioning the improved law and order situation, with the town bustling even at 2 AM, reflecting peace, prosperity, and security under the Modi government. He also credited Sunil Sharma for bringing major power projects to the area, which have greatly contributed to Kishtwar's development.

DDMA Shopian issues Weather Advisory in view of increment weather

Control Rooms activated across the district, helplines issued

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

In light of the ongoing inclement weather conditions and continuous rainfall across Kashmir, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Shopian today issued a weather advisory stating that there are rising concerns of flash floods, potential cloudbursts at isolated locations, and the temporary suspension of surface transportation in the district. These conditions may lead to a significant increase in water levels in the Nallah Rambhara and its adjacent tributaries. Given the current weather forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), line departments of the district have been directed to take precautionary measures to mitigate any untoward incidents. The Flood Control Room shall be activated immediately, and all resources must be kept in a state of readiness. Control Rooms of PWD (R&B) Circle, KPCCDL, and Hydraulic Circle Shopian have been directed to be activated, and men and machinery in full readiness to respond swiftly to any emergencies. Additionally, all Tehsildars in the Shopian district were instructed to maintain vigilance and advise the public, especially school children, within their respective jurisdictions to refrain from venturing nearby to rivers and streams due to the potential for sudden rises in water levels. For assistance and reporting any emergency, the public has been asked to reach the DDMA Helpline at the following numbers: - 8825081928 - 7006040589 - 9149675857.

Indian Army Hosts Amity Meeting with Local Youth in Buni Khet, Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Indian Army organized an Amity Meeting with the local youth of Buni Khet in Poonch District, aimed at strengthening the bond

between the military and the local community. This initiative was part of the Army's ongoing efforts to enhance outreach and improve coordination between the Awam (people) and the Indian Army, particularly in areas

affected by terrorism. The meeting served as a platform for the Indian Army to inform the locals about the current security situation in the region and the measures being taken to counter terrorist activities.

The Army representatives detailed their ongoing operations and efforts to ensure peace and stability in the area, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the military and the local population.

BJP Condemns JKNC-INC Alliance as a Threat to National Unity and Jammu's Future



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP Shri Sunil Sethi, today issued a strong statement condemning the alliance between the National Conference (JKNC) and the Indian National Congress (INC). Sunil Sethi accused the JKNC of promoting separatism and terrorism in their manifesto and questioned the Congress Party's decision to align with such forces. He was addressing a press conference in Jammu along with Arun Gupta, Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Balbir Ram Rattan and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra. "JKNC's manifesto explicitly talks about separatism, releasing jailed individuals involved in anti-national activities, and halting security

measures like frisking on roads. Despite this, the Congress has chosen to join hands with a party that supports separatist and terrorist agendas," Sunil Sethi stated. He questioned the intentions of the INC, asking, "Does the Congress Party endorse the JKNC's agenda? Do the people of Jammu want the restoration of Article 370 and 35A? Do they want to see an increase in terrorism and the return of separatist forces?" Sunil Sethi emphasized that the alliance between JKNC and INC is a deceptive move to mislead the people of Jammu. "Congress leaders present themselves differently to the public, but their alliance with JKNC shows their true intentions. They are working against the interests of Jammu," he added. Contrasting

the BJP's stance, Sunil Sethi highlighted the party's commitment to national unity and support for patriotic citizens. He said "BJP has always stood by those who sacrificed their lives for the country. We gave our mandate in Kishtwar to the daughter of such patriots. In contrast, JKNC and PDP have consistently supported individuals who advocate terrorism and separatism." Sunil Sethi outlined two distinct political streams in Jammu and Kashmir: one that strives for national strength and peace, and another that works to destabilize the region and empower anti-national elements. "Jammu and Kashmir is now on a path to peace and progress, and only the BJP can ensure the welfare of youth, women, and farmers," he asserted. He also noted that the BJP is the only party that has genuinely worked for the SC, ST, PoJK, and West Pakistani refugees and appeal to the public to recognize these anti-national forces because they will work against you while sitting among you.

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