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03 Congress, NC manipulated J&K Assembly to 6 year term: Dr Jitendra

09 LG greets people on Gandhi Jayanti

10 Bowlers rule roost as India complete series sweep against Bangladesh

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

69.65 pc turnout in phase 3 of J&K Assembly Polls; overall voting higher than LS polls



Elderly, specially-abled among others participate enthusiastically in J&K Assembly elections across various polling stations on Tuesday. (more pics on pg-5)

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A voter turnout of 69.65 per cent was recorded in the third and final phase of voting Tuesday in the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said.

Overall, after the conclusion of the all three phases, the poll percentage stands at 63.45, which is higher than the turnout recorded in the recently held Lok Sabha elections in the Union Territory, the J&K CEO office said in a statement here.

However, he said the figures are tentative and likely to go up marginally with the final reports from the polling stations in far-flung areas and addition of postal ballots.

According to EC data, there were more than 39.18 lakh eligible voters in the final phase.

"Poll percentage in first phase (covering 24 constituencies on September 18) was 61.38 per cent, in second phase (covering 26 segments

J&K needs visionary Govt that can take strong decisions on security, stability: Amit Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: As voting began on Tuesday for the third and final phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the people of the Union Territory should exercise their franchise to form a government that would keep away terrorism, separatism, corruption and dynastic politics.

Shah also said Jammu and Kashmir needed a government that was visionary and could take strong decisions for security, peace and stability.

"Today, the people voting in Jammu and Kashmir in the last phase should use their power of vote to form a government that keeps Jammu and Kashmir away from terrorism, separatism, corruption and dynastic politics and is determined to protect the rights of every section," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

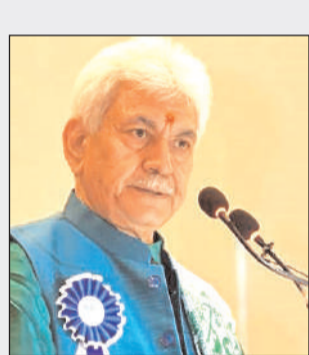
The home minister asked the people to cast their vote for tourism, education, employment and all-round development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Voting commenced on Tuesday for the third

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.3°C Min: 22.2°C
Humidity
Max: 88 Min: 62
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.8°C Min: 12.4°C
Humidity
Max: 74 Min: 37
Sunset: 18:15 Hours
Sunrise: 06:24 Hours

Transparent, free, fair assembly polls 2024 will be written in golden letters in history of J&K elections: LG
Applauds tireless efforts of election officials, district administrations, JKP, Sfs for successfully conducting multi-phased polls



SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended hearty congratulations to the voters of the third phase of Assembly Elections for the record turnout. In a social media post, the Lieutenant Governor said, the great enthusiasm among voters in all three phases to exercise their franchise is a testimony to vibrant democracy in J&K and people's faith in democratic values.

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X: "Congratulations to the people for a record turnout in final phase of Assembly Elections. I applaud the tireless efforts of election officials, district admin, JKP & our security forces for successfully conducting multi-phased polls & strengthening the pillars of democracy. Great enthusiasm among voters in all three phases to exercise their franchise is a testimony to vibrant democracy in J&K and people's faith in democratic values. Transparent, free & fair assembly polls 2024 will be written in golden letters in the history of J&K elections".

on September 25) it was 57.31 per cent and in last third phase (covering 40 seats) poll percentage is 68.72 per cent (tentative). Overall poll percentage comes to 63.45 per cent (tentative)," the statement said.

The statement said the overall poll percentage in the assembly polls is far better than 57.89 per cent recorded in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections and 61.01 per cent in 2008 assembly elections.

However, it is slightly less than 65.84 per cent in 2014 assembly elections, it said. Highlighting the district-wise voter turnout in the last three elections -- two assembly polls (in 2008 and 2014) and one Lok Sabha elections

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(2024) -- the statement said the overall the poll percentage in the assembly elections in the Kashmir division remained 55.20 per cent against 47.27 per cent in Lok Sabha elections this year.

However, the 55.20 per cent was less than 2014 assembly poll percentage of 65.84 per cent and 2008 assembly poll percentage of 61.01 per cent.

Similarly, the 72.59 per cent of the Jammu division recorded during the three phases of assembly elections is higher than 69.63 per cent registered in Lok Sabha elections this year and 71.26 per cent registered in 2008 assembly polls but lower compared to 2014 assembly elections when overall 76.67 per cent polling was registered.

The statement said Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian and Baramulla districts have set new records for voting this assembly election which is the best in the past three decades.

BJP to script new history in J&K: Chugh

NC, Cong, PDP face complete rout in assembly polls



board in the UT. This is a slap on the face of NC, Congress, and PDP, who used to win through boycott politics. "Today, people have expressed their faith in democracy by coming out in large numbers to cast ballot," Chugh said, adding that "It is the BJP that will form government after October 8 in J&K and our first priority will be to provide jobs to youth." He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir have spoken and their voices have been heard loud and clear. "Today, we celebrate a monumental shift in the state's electoral landscape, as the boycott politics of the past give way to massive voter participation", Chugh said and

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thanked people for voting in large numbers. "This is a testament to the restored faith in democracy, thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision", he added. "The 1987 election riggings had left a deep scar on the people's trust in the democratic process. However, under PM Modi's leadership, the faith of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in BR Ambedkar's Constitution has been revitalized," he said, adding, "This is not just a victory for our party, but for democracy itself."

He said that today, the people of North Kashmir came out in large numbers to exercise their right to vote, demonstrating their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts over the

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District-Wise Voter Turnout in Phase-III

S.NO	District	No. ACs	Voter Turnout %
1	BANDIPORE	3	67.68
2	BARAMULLA	7	61.03
3	JAMMU	11	71.40
4	KATHUA	6	73.34
5	KUPWARA	6	66.79
6	SAMBA	3	75.88
7	UDHAMPUR	4	76.09
Above 7 Districts		40	69.65

No repoll recorded in J&K assembly polls: EC

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission said no repolls have been recorded so far in the three-phased Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls which concluded on Tuesday.

It also noted that despite an increase in the number of assembly seats from 83 in 2014 to 90 in 2024, the elections were completed in three phases this time as against five in 2014.

No major law and order incidents related to the elections were reported, a significant improvement from 2014 when over 170 incidents were reported, including 87 on polling days, it said.

There also have been no complaints pertaining to arbitrary preventive detention of political functionaries in these elections which is "unprecedented", the poll authority said.

The Election Commission (EC) had also strictly instructed against clubbing of polling stations just before the poll day, and accordingly, people voted at their actual polling station location as opposed to 98 polling stations shifted in 2014 at the eleventh hour.

The role of money and muscle power has been curtailed to a "significant extent", it said. "These assembly polls have seen a seven per cent increase in the number of candidates contesting as compared to the assembly elections in 2014.

Women candidates made a significant leap, increasing from 28 to 43 in the corresponding period, while independent candidates saw a 26 per cent rise.

Srinagar recorded 30.08 per cent polling this election compared to 24.83 per cent in Lok Sabha polls, 27.75 per cent in 2014 assembly elections and 21.57 per cent in the 2008 assembly polls. Likewise, Pulwama marked a slight improvement as it touched 46.99 per cent (this time) against 46.05

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Situation stable but not normal: Army Chief on eastern Ladakh standoff

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh is stable but not normal and remains sensitive, Chief of Army Staff Gen Uday Kumar Singh said on Tuesday amid the dragging standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries in the region.

Though a "positive signalling" is coming out from the diplomatic talks between the two sides, the execution of any plan depends on the military commanders on the ground, he said.

In the entire gamut, the "trust" has become the "biggest casualty", Gen Dwidedi said at a curtain raiser event on Chanakya Defence Dialogue. "The situation is stable, but

it is not normal and it's sensitive. If that be the case what are we wanting. We are wanting that the situation that was there pre April 2020 should be restored," he added.

The military standoff between the two sides began in early May of 2020.

The full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points.

"Till the time the situation is not restored, as far as we are concerned, the situation will remain sensitive, and we are fully operationally prepared to face any kind of a contingency," the Army Chief said.

He listed several pending issues such as troops on ground, buffer zones along

the LAC and resumption of patrolling by troops as planned.

Gen Dwidedi also briefly touched upon the Indian military's overall approach towards China.

"As far as China is concerned, it has been intriguing our minds for quite some time. And I have been saying that with China, you have to compete, you have to cooperate, you have to coexist, you have to confront and contest," he said.

India and China held two rounds of diplomatic talks in July and August with an aim to find early resolution of outstanding issues in their standoff on the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

"The positive signalling is coming from the diplomatic

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Iran attacks Israel, US warplanes arrive in middle east

AGENCY
JERUSALEM: Iran launched dozens of missiles into Israel on Tuesday, sharply escalating a conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed militias Hezbollah and Hamas that began nearly a year ago and threatening to push the Middle East closer toward a regionwide war.

The orange glow of missiles streaked across Israel's night sky as air raid sirens sounded across the country and millions of residents scrambled into bomb shelters. The attack raised the strong likelihood of an Israeli reprisal.

Before Iran's attack, Israel had landed a series of devastating blows in recent weeks against Hezbollah's leadership in Lebanon. It then ratcheted up the pressure on the militant group - which has been firing rockets into Israel since the war in Gaza began - by launching what it said is a limited ground incursion in southern Lebanon.

Israel has said it will continue to strike Hezbollah until it is safe for citizens displaced from homes near



the Lebanon border to return. Hezbollah has vowed to keep firing rockets into Israel until there is a cease-fire in Gaza.

Israel vowed retaliation for Iran's missile barrage, which it said had caused only a few injuries.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the coun-

try's air defenses intercepted many of the incoming missiles, though some landed in central and southern Israel. "This strike will have consequences," he said. He said the attack had caused only "very few" injuries, but did not elaborate.

Israel and Iran have fought a shadow war for years, but rarely have they come into direct conflict.

Israel considers Iran to be its greatest foe -- citing Iran's repeated calls for Israel's destruction, its support for Arab militant groups and its nuclear program. Iran denies Israeli accusations that it is developing a nuclear weapon.

Moments before Iran launched its missiles, a shooting attack in Tel Aviv left six people dead, police said, adding that the two suspects who had opened fire on a boulevard in the Jaffa neighborhood had also been killed.

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Cong kept every issue important for country entangled: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS
PALWAL: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday

addressed rallies at Kurukshetra, Gohana and Hisar last month for the third consecutive term

in the state. "This is my final public meeting for this polls," Modi told the Palwal gathering.

"In village after village, there is a BJP wave. Everywhere, one voice is heard -- 'Bharosa dil se, BJP phir se,'" he said.

Addressing the Congress, Modi said its politics remains limited to false promises, whereas the BJP's politics is to put in hard work

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