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Final electoral roll of J&K published with highest-ever net increase of 7.72 lakh voters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published on Friday with the highest-ever net addition of more than 7.72 lakh voters, officials said.

The final electoral roll has a total of 83,59,771 electors -- 42,91,687 males, 40,67,900 females and 184 third gender -- Joint Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Anil Salgotra said.

The release of the electoral roll paves the way for holding of Assembly polls in the Union Territory, the first since Article 370 provisions were abrogated and Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Union territories in 2019.

"There has been a net increase of 7,72,872 electors in the final electoral roll, i.e. a 10.19 per cent net increase of the registered electors over the draft roll," he said.

The highest number of additions during a special summary revision (SSR) was

less than two lakh earlier.

"This was for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir that more than 11 lakh names were included in a single SSR period," Salgotra said.

During this period, a record 11,40,768 claims were received through Form 6 for inclusion of names in

Highest ever additions made; 613 new Polling Stations added; 3,01,961 electors in 18-19 age group added; gender ratio improves by 27 points to reach 948

the electoral rolls across the Union territory. Out of these, 11,28,672 claims were accepted and only 12,096 claims were rejected. This included 3,01,961 claims of inclusion in the age group of 18-19.

A total of 4,12,157 requests for deletion were received, out of which 3,58,222 were accepted and 53,935 were rejected.

There has been an addition of 613 new polling stations in the Union territory, he said.

The gender ratio of the final electoral Roll has increased from 921 to 948, he added.

Salgotra said that gender ratio has shown a remarkable increase by 27 points and stands at 948, which is much above the Census gender ratio of Jammu and Kashmir.

Overall there has been a six percentage points increase in the elector-population ratio to 58, he added. He said the photo coverage in the electoral roll remained at 99.99 per cent showing that no new entry without a proper photograph has been allowed.

There are 57,253 marked PwD electors in the final electoral roll, an increase of 46 per cent over the draft roll, he added. He said that though the

special summary revision-2022 culminated with the publication of the final electoral roll on November 25, the process of continuous updation will continue and any eligible citizen who has been left out of the electoral roll can apply through any of the modes of registration, i.e. online through NVSP portal, voter helpline app, voter portal or offline by making an application to the ERO concerned.

With the implementation of four qualifying dates as part of the commission's electoral reforms, the qualifying date would get updated to 1st January 2023, after 31st December, 2022, paving way for all those young citizens who have attained the qualifying age of 18 years between 1st October 2022 and 1st January 2023 to get registered, he said.

The emphasis of the Election Commission led by Chief Election

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Govt announces winter vacations in phased manner from Dec 1

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The School Education Department on Friday announced the closure of schools for vacations in a phased manner in Kashmir and winter zones of Jammu division from December 1 to February-28.

The order issued by the Principal Secretary, School Education Department Alok Kumar stated, "For primary level classes' upto 5th standard, the vacations

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Vipan posted as Asstt CEO, SMVDSB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Friday transferred Junior Scale JKAS officer.

According to the order issued by Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary, General Administration Department, Vipan Bhagat, Junior Scale JKAS 2012-II batch, presently posted as Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Rural-II, Jammu,

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India rectifying past mistakes, celebrating unsung heroes: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India was correcting its past mistakes by celebrating its heritage and remembering its unsung bravehearts who were lost in the pages of history written as part of a conspiracy during the colonial era.

Addressing the 400th birth anniversary celebrations of legendary Ahom general Lachit Barphukan, Modi said the history of India was not just about slavery but also about its warriors and it was important that the collective sense of history was not limited to a few decades or centuries.

"The history of India is not just about slavery. The history of India is about emerging victorious, it is about the valour of countless greats. India's history is about standing against tyranny with unprecedented valour and courage," he said. The prime minister said



PM Narendra Modi addressing valedictory function of 400th Birth Anniversary celebration of Lachit Barphukan in New Delhi.

unfortunately even after Independence, the history that was written as part of a conspiracy during the colonial era continued to be taught.

"After independence there was a need to change the agenda of foreigners who made us slaves, but it did not happen. The stories of fierce resistance to tyranny in every part of the country were wil-

fully suppressed," Modi said. He said there were countless stories of victory over tyranny during the long period of repression.

"The mistake of not giving those events in the mainstream is being rectified now," he said.

Modi also recalled how Barphukan had kept national interest above blood

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Three boys drown while bathing in river at Kathua



Uniforms of deceased students lying at river bank.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA/JAMMU: Three boys drowned while taking a bath in a river in Kathua district, officials said. Pankaj Sharma, Pankaj Kumar and Sheetal Kumar, all residents of Billawer, were swept away

into the deep waters of the Bihni river while bathing, they said. Police launched a search operation after they received information about the incident from locals and fished out the bodies from the river, they said.

India doesn't believe in world order where few are considered superior to others: Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India does not believe in a world order where a few are considered superior to others and asserted the country's actions are guided by the essence of human equality and dignity that is part of its ancient ethos.

In his address at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2022 held here, he also said India has always seen security and prosperity as a "collective pursuit" of the entire humankind, in which there is no possibility of "island security or prosperity".

"It is my firm belief that if security becomes a truly collective enterprise, then we can think of creating a global order that is beneficial for all of us," Singh said.

The defence minister said now "we require to elevate the paradigm of

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No institution in constitutional democracy including collegium is perfect: CJI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: No institution in a constitutional democracy, including the collegium, is perfect and the solution is to work out within the existing system, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said on Friday. Speaking at the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) here, he said judges are faithful soldiers who implement the Constitution.

Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the

adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day.

On the issue of collegium, the CJI said: "Finally, criticism about the collegium. I thought I will reserve the best for the last. No institution in a constitutional democracy is perfect. But we work within the existing framework of the Constitution as it is interpreted and given to us. All the judges of the collegium including me, we are faithful soldiers who implement the Constitution. When we talk of imperfections, our solution

is to work our way within the existing system."

He said getting good people in the judiciary and paying them high salaries would not reform the collegium system.

"The president (of SCBA) raised a query about good people. Getting good people to enter the judiciary, getting good lawyers to enter the judiciary is not just the function about reforming the collegium. Getting to be judges is not a function of how much salary you give judges. However high you pay judges, it'll be a fraction of what a successful

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J&K to see major boost in business, tourism investments: Officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is working to boost business investment and enhance income of the local population by simplifying rules and procedures, and digitising records, senior officials said.

The Union Territory, since the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, has received investment proposals from various business houses to the tune of about Rs 56,000 crore while sanctions have been granted to proposals worth Rs 38,000 crore, they said. The work is already on for projects worth about Rs

12,000 crore, a top official of the administration said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has directed officials and authorities to ensure that all activities that are linked to the people are made "vibrant and viable".

The government is translating land records into as many as 22 Indian languages so that investors can readily use them and even locals can peruse them, a senior revenue department official said.

For this purpose, software developed by C-DAC is being used, he added.

Officials said the Union Territory (UT), over the last three years, has

attracted investments mainly in the manufacturing and food processing sectors, and some projects in automobile and allied sectors are being discussed at present.

"The aim is to boost the overall economy of the state. At the same time, we are working on the tourism sector and development sector in a major way so that the income of locals can be boosted. The government has recently relaxed and streamlined guidelines related to opening of home stays in the Kashmir Valley, including in remote areas," a senior officer told PTI.

People having four or less rooms with basic living

arrest," reads an order issued by Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/Secretary, Revenue Department.

"It is further ordered that during the period of his suspension, Rohit Sharma, shall remain attached in the office of Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K,



Jammu," it added. Meanwhile, according to sources, the government has given the charge of Tehsildar Bahu to Tehsildar Arnia Punia.

The arrest of Tehsildar Bahu Rohit Sharma on November 14 had left a piquant situation in the Bahu tehsil jurisdiction with the charge of post not

having given to any other officer or new incumbent posted to carry on the day to day revenue related affairs. Since the arrested Tehildar was not placed under suspension even after the ten days of his arrest, the people were wondering whether it is prelude to possible hushing up of the graft case. They feel such a ploy will betray LG administration's zero tolerance against the menace of corruption especially when the bail plea of the accused Rohit Sharma has already been rejected by the court.

On November 14, Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) had arrested Tehsildar Jammu City South (Bahu) Rohit Sharma red-handed while accepting bribe. It is alleged that Rohit Sharma demanded Rs 50,000 from a person in lieu of issuing Fard.

25th National Conference on e-governance to begin at Katra today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: More than 1,600 delegates from across the country will attend the 25th national conference on e-governance, to be inaugurated by Union minister Jitendra Singh in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra on Saturday, officials said.

The two day-conference will focus on bringing citizens, industry and the government closer for speedy development, they said.

"The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), in association with the government



Secretary DARPG, V. Srinivas addressing press conference at Katra on Friday.

of Jammu and Kashmir is going to organise the 25th national conference on e-governance (NCeG) from Saturday in Katra," DARPG Secretary V Srinivas told reporters here.

He said the conference will be inaugurated by Union minister Jitendra Singh.

He said delegates from central ministries and departments and 28 states and eight Union territories have

confirmed their participation in the conference.

"More than 1,600 delegates are expected to attend the conference in Katra. An exhibition will also be organised during the event to showcase India's achievements in the field of e-governance, along with a wall of fame and photo exhibition on award winners," he said.

As November 26 is being celebrated as Constitution Day, the Preamble to the Constitution will be read out by all participants during the inaugural session of the conference. The valedictory session will be presided over by Jammu and

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DB directs authorities to ensure completion of projects for public convenience, de-congestion of traffic in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Citizen Forum regarding fly-over project from Shakuntla to Janipur proposed in 2008, which was abandoned for some extraneous reasons, Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul after hearing Adv Aditya Sharma for PIL whereas Advocate General D C Raina with AAG Ravinder Gupta for the UT, disposed of the PIL with directions that the authorities will ensure completion of project for the convenience of public and for de-congestion of traffic in

Jammu city.

When the PIL came-up for hearing, DB observed that the respondents have given the details about the approach for widening of the aforementioned roads from year 2007-2008 at a project cost of Rs 18.04 crores. DB further observed that respondents from time to time had taken stand that the subject matter of widening of roads, construction of flyovers etc., falls within the scope and powers of the Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (in short ERA). It has been further stated that looking to the traffic problems, widening of the B C road was envisaged to make it 8-lane road. However, since the said

project involved acquisition of about 53 Kanaal of land as also re-settlement and relocation, the same translated into huge costs. The projects for the development of the city have also been stated to be financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), wherever the land acquisition and resettlement issues are settled on the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.

DB further observed that during the pendency of the instant PIL filed Citizens Forum through its President R K Chadha, the Court noticed that proposal with regard to widening of B C road-Amphalla-New Plot-Janipur road was

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 25.4°C Min: 9.8°C

Humidity
Max: 83 Min: 58

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 15.2°C Min: -1.4°C

Humidity
Max: 96 Min: 72

Sunset : 17:28 Hours
Sunrise : 07:09 Hours