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

48.62 pc turnout in Ph-II of DDC polls in J&K



Women voters waiting in queue at a polling station to exercise their franchise.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 48.62 percent turnout was recorded in the second phase of polling in District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir which passed off peacefully on Tuesday.

Another excellent performance in Kashmir in the Phase-2 DDC elections. Polling has been very brisk and long queues of women in particular were seen everywhere.

The faith in grassroots democracy continues. Sets the tempo for the next 6 phases.

Jammu region witnessed 65.54 percent voting, while Kashmir valley recorded an average of 33.34 percent turnout, state election commissioner K K Sharma told reporters here.

Bandipora district recorded the highest turnout in Kashmir at 69.66 per-

cent which was the third-highest in the union territory.

A turnout of 51.76 was recorded in the first phase on November 28-- 64.2 percent in the Jammu division and 40.65 percent in the Kashmir division.

The election is significant as it is the first major democratic exercise since the Centre abrogated Article 370 that gave special status to J-K and bifurcated the state into two union territories in August year.

Poonch recorded the highest turnout of 75 percent on Tuesday, while Pulwama retained its position at the bottom, as in the first phase, with just 8.67 percent people casting their votes.

Out of the 280 constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, 43 went to polls in the second phase with 25 in Kashmir and 18 in the Jammu division.

Voting was held in 43 DDC con-

FINAL VOTER TURNOUT DDC ELECTION 2020 (Phase II) 01/12/2020									
S. No.	Name of District	No. of Poll going Constituency	Polling Stations	Final Turnout			%age		
				Male Votes Polled	Female Votes Polled	Total Votes Polled			
1	Pulwama	2	103	2481	1860	4341	8.67		
2	Baramulla	2	214	15459	11733	27192	28.95		
3	Srinagar	7	75	3425	2721	6146	33.78		
4	Kulgam	2	191	6017	4239	10256	29.90		
5	Shopian	2	104	2109	1540	3649	17.28		
6	Anantnag	1	206	4121	3221	7342	16.09		
7	Bandipora	2	41	6958	6253	13211	69.66		
8	Ganderbal	3	171	8510	7280	15790	49.14		
9	Kupwara	2	76	14146	14460	28606	58.69		
10	Budgam	2	124	10647	8810	19457	43.51		
KASHMIR DIVISION				25	1305	73873	62117	135990	33.34
11	Kishtwar	2	60	8103	7078	15181	61.64		
12	Udhampur	2	135	18613	15983	34596	62.51		
13	Jammu	1	101	15880	15808	31688	69.97		
14	Kathua	2	111	15738	15516	31254	60.10		
15	Ramban	2	80	10172	8539	18711	66.23		
16	Doda	2	98	12352	10343	22695	64.80		
17	Samba	2	51	9404	7842	17246	66.38		
18	Poonch	2	77	16382	14882	31264	75.07		
19	Rajouri	1	65	10669	8828	19497	60.21		
20	Reasi	2	59	10606	8673	19279	69.27		
JAMMU DIVISION				18	837	127919	113492	241411	65.54
Total				43	2142	201792	175609	377401	48.62

stituencies including 25 in Kashmir and 18 in the Jammu region in the first phase.

"The voting for the second phase of DDC elections passed off peacefully

with no incident reported from anywhere in the union territory.

The overall voting percentage for the second phase was 48.62 per cent," Sharma said.

EC to take final call on assembly polls in J&K: Sharma

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India will take a final call on holding the first assembly polls after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir as a union territory, state election commissioner K K Sharma said on Tuesday.

"It will not be appropriate for me to comment on it. The Election Commission (of India) will take a final decision on assembly elections," Sharma told reporters here. He was replying to a question whether the situation was conducive in Jammu and Kashmir for holding the elections to the legislative assembly of the union territory.

Sharma said as state election commissioner, his mandate was limited to holding polls to urban local bodies and panchayati Raj institutions. "We held deliberations with the law and order machinery and other agencies involved in holding the elections for District Development Councils before deciding on it. "I am sure a similar process will be followed for holding assembly elections but the Election Commission will decide on it," he said.

The last assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in November-December, 2014, which led to the formation of the PDP-BJP government in the erstwhile state for the first and the last time.

The coalition government fell in June 2018 after the BJP pulled out and withdrew support, leading to the imposition of the governor's rule.

President's rule was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir in January 2019 and extended in July last year as elections were not conducted in the state.

The Centre nullified Article 370 and reorganised Jammu and Kashmir into union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh -- on August 5, 2019.

While the Ladakh union territory does not have a legislature in the new set up, Jammu and Kashmir has been provided with a legislative assembly but the elections have not been held even after a passage of more than a year.

On the dip in poll percentage in the valley, Sharma said it was for the people to vote.

"We have been appealing to people to vote in the DDC polls as these are very

important in electing the decision-making body at the district level. We have run awareness campaigns in this regard but in the end, it is the people who have to vote," he

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454 new COVID-19 cases, 8 more deaths in J&K

1 more death in Ladakh, 12 new cases

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 454 fresh novel coronavirus cases on Tuesday and eight deaths due to the disease in the last 24 hours, bringing the infection count to 1,10,678 and the toll to 1,702, officials said.

Of the new COVID-19 cases, 217 are from the Jammu division and 237 from the Kashmir division, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district registered a maximum of 118 new COVID-19 patients, followed by 95 in

STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu. The number of active COVID-19 cases has now fallen below 5,000 as 503 patients recovered from the infection in the past 24 hours. While 1,04,068 patients have recovered from the infection so far, there are 4,908 still under treatment in the Union Territory, the officials said.

Five of the fresh fatalities linked to the pandemic were from Jammu and three from the Kashmir region, they said. Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded one more

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BSF officer martyred in ceasefire violation by Pak army in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A sub-inspector of the Border Security Force (BSF) was martyred on Tuesday in a ceasefire violation by the Pakistani army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

In November, 15 people, including nine security personnel, were martyred in multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops in various sectors in the Union Territory.

The latest casualty took place on a day when the BSF



Martyr BSF SI Paotinsat Guite

is celebrating its Raising Day.

The Pakistan army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation in Rajouri sector on

the LoC again, in which BSF Sub-Inspector Paotinsat Guite who was deployed at Forward Defence Location attained martyrdom while displaying conspicuous act of bravery in not only retaliating to the enemy fire but also saved many of his colleagues' lives," a statement issued by the BSF said.

It said the border man had displayed highest degree of dedication and devotion, and laid down his life in the line of duty.

The incident took place at Tarkundi area of Mendhar in Poonch district.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday withdrawal 30 pc fare hike on public transport in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the withdrawal of 30 per cent fare hike on authorized fare, ordered vide Government order No: 31-JK(TR) of 2020 dated June 22, 2020, in view of restrictions imposed on seating capacity of Stage Carriage Passenger Vehicles due to COVID-19 Pandemic,"

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J&K won't bear atrocities of Gupkar this time: Anurag

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In charge of the Jammu and Kashmir DDC elections and the Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur, has announced the end of an era of decades of atrocities on Jammu and Kashmir and the people here by the Gupkar coalition and also that the Bharatiya Janata Party will win these DDC elections by an overwhelming majority.

Anurag Thakur was addressing Election Rallies for DDC elections at Nagri, Marheen, Ghagwal, Dinga Amb, Duj Shezada Basti at

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Samba. Anurag Thakur said, "The Gupkar thugs have tortured Jammu and Kashmir and its people for decades. The trio of Mufti-Abdullah-Congress,

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Kesar posted as Dy CEO SASB

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday transferred one KAS officer.

According to an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Sushil Kesar, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Deputy

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Vinod posted to J&K, Choudhary to Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on Tuesday transferred one IPS among two officers in Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. "With the approval of Competent Authority, IPS officers of the

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 24.5°C Min: 10.9°C

Humidity
Max: 93 Min: 75

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 14.7°C Min: 1.0°C

Humidity
Max: 88 Min: 77

Sunset : 17:26 Hours
Sunrise : 07:16 Hours

BSF team had walked 200 m inside Pak territory to unearth cross-border tunnel

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A BSF team, probing the intrusion of four Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists killed recently at Nagrota in Jammu, had gone 200 metres inside Pakistani territory to find the mouth of a cross-border underground tunnel used by extremists to enter into India, top officials said on Tuesday.

Immediately after the four Jaish terrorists were

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Recovery of tunnels, drones proof of Pak hostility: Rai

NEW DELHI: The recovery of tunnels and drones along the India-Pakistan border is proof of the hostility of the neighbouring country towards India, Union minister Nityanand Rai said on Tuesday.

Addressing the troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) during its 56th raising day event here, the minister said there is an atmosphere of "uncertainty" along this border as ceasefire violations are often carried out by the other side.

"These activities are done by our neighbour to aid infiltration and smuggling of arms and

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Farmers' protests: Unions reject Govt offer to set up committee; talks remain inconclusive

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Critical talks between three Union ministers and farmer groups ended in a stalemate on Tuesday after they rejected the government's suggestion of a new committee to look into issues raised by farmers protesting against new farm laws, but both sides agreed to meet again on Thursday.

The government, on its part, rejected the demand for repealing the laws and rather asked the farmers' bodies to identify specific issues related to the newly enacted Acts and submit those by Wednesday for consideration and discussion in the next round of talks on Thursday.

Farmer unions said protests will now intensify across the country until their

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CS reviews arrangements for COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam on Tuesday chaired the maiden meeting of the UT Steering Committee to monitor the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccination. The Committee reviewed the arrangements being made to ensure hassle-free and time-bound delivery of COVID-vaccines across the Union Territory.

Administrative Secretaries of the departments of Health & Medical Education, Home, Social Welfare, Housing & Urban Development, Information, Transport, Rural Development, Tribal Affairs, besides Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM) and officers from the Army, CRPF and Northern Railways partici-



CS B V R Subrahmanyam chairing maiden meeting of UT Steering Committee on COVID Vaccination.

ated in the meeting. The meeting was informed that various COVID-19 vaccines are currently in the third phase of clinical trials and will be shortly available for usage. As such, the Health & Medical Education Department was asked to do the preparatory planning beforehand, and compile the database of potential vaccinators, prioritized groups of beneficiaries to be adminis-

tered the vaccine in its initial stages starting from health-care workers both in government and private establishments, frontline workers including armed forces, home guards, police, volunteers, municipal workers, etc, the prioritized age group of persons above the age of 50 years, and persons with co-morbidities.

The H&ME Department was asked to work out the

Rs 25 lakh Cr Roshni Land Scam

Former Cong minister, Block Inspector, Govt employees figure in Roshni land grabbers' list

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Name of former Congress minister Prem Sagar, PHE employees, Inspectors in Block Office in District Kathua figure among the beneficiaries of Roshni Act.

Former Minister Prem Sagar, son of Tulla Ram, resident of Basohli, is in possession of land at four spots in Plahi village in District Kathua. 2 kanals and 10 marlas under khasra number

1805/1532/1144; 10 marla under khasra number 1449/1448; 14 marla under mutation number 1450/1448; 14 kanals at khasra number 1451/1445/1198.

Kapoor Singh Inspector in Block Office is in possession of two piece-one kanal and one marla at Chak Gota and another piece of land measuring 10 marlas.

Here it is relevant to mention that the Jammu and

Kashmir administration has disclosed the details of government land in Jammu and Kashmir that has been allegedly encroached.

The J&K administration has issued list of occupants following a J&K High Court order. The list also mentioned the Jammu residence of former J&K Chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, as having encroached on forest

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Man shot at by terrorists in Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A 24-year-old man was injured when terrorists fired upon him in the Soura area of the city on Tuesday, police said.

Nadif Khan, a resident of Ilahibagh, was shot at by terrorists around 7.15 pm, a police official said. He said Khan was rushed to nearby SKIMS hospital for treatment.

7 officials placed under suspension

STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza on Tuesday placed seven officials under suspension for dereliction of Election duties till further orders. The officials in

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