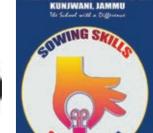


Vol. 28 Issue 334 • Jammu • Monday • December 4, 2023 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00



Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24 Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo pays obeisance

at Baba Ballo Devsthan at Mathwar

BJP won semi-final, set to win final in 2024: Raina

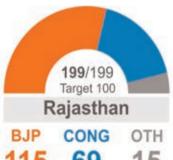
Udhampur to face City Club in Volleyball final

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

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

BJP sweeps polls in MP, Raj, Chhattisgarh; Cong gets T'gana

Hat-trick win gives guarantee for 2024 hat-trick: Modi



STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BJP

swept Madhya Pradesh,

Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

on Sunday inflicting a resounding defeat on the

Congress to tighten its stran-

glehold in the Hindi heartland, in a big boost for Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and

setting the tone for the 2024

In some consolation for the

Congress in the face of the

saffron wave after it lost

Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh,

the party ousted the Bharat

Rashtra Samiti(BRS) in

Telangana to make it 3-1 for

Party(BJP) in the latest

Bharatiya Janata

Lok Sabha elections.

Target 116 Madhya Pradesh CONG

Target 46 Chhattisgarh CONG

119/119 Target 60 Telangana **BRS CONG BJP AIMIM OTH**



PM Narendra Modi participates in victory celebrations at BJP Headquarters in New Delhi.

round of Assembly elections billed as a semi-final before next year's poll showdown. Counting of votes in Mizoram will be taken up on

As the BJP leadership savoured the triple victory just months after losing its lone southern citadel Karnataka, Prime Minister Modi said some people are already saying that the party's hat-trick in the states is a guarantee of hat-trick in the Lok Sabha polls.

"The results show popular support for our battle against corruption," Modi told a crowd of cheering supporters at the BJP headquarters



here, adding that they have served a lesson to the Congress and the opposition's INDIA bloc that merely collecting some dynasts on a dais may make for a good photograph but cannot win people's confidence.

Voters have delivered a warning to these parties mend their ways or people will finish them off, he said.

"We bow to the Janta Janardan. The results in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan indicate that the people of India are firmly with politics of good governance and devel-

@BJP4India stands," Modi earlier said in a post on X, after a ringing endorsement of the BJP's strategy centred on the prime minister's appeal and governance plank. Ruling MP for 18 years, a well entrenched

CONTD ON PAGE 9

It's victory of Modi policies, welfare programmes Time for Gandhi family to quit politics: Chugh



STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: $_{\mathrm{BJP}}$ General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Sunday hailed the party victory in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh

Pahalgam, Gulmarg

reel under sub-zero

temperatures

tourist resorts of Pahalgam

and Gulmarg continued to

reel under sub-zero tempera-

tures on Sunday even as rest

of Kashmir witnessed

warmer than usual night, the

Gulmarg skiing resort in

north Kashmir's Baramulla

district recorded a low of

minus 3.6 degrees Celsius

and was the coldest place in

the valley, the meteorological

Kashmir's Anantnag dis-

trict, which serves as one of

the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, saw the

mercury settling at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, the MeT

Elsewhere in the valley, the

stayed above the freezing

point owing to a cloud cover

even as the weather is

expected to remain dry over

temperature

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

department added.

office said.

minimum

the next week.

Pahalgam in

weather department said.

Popular

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

nation's salute to the policies and welfare programmes ofMinister Narendra Modi. Chugh said all those forces which conspired

against Modi and his team

stand exposed.

Chugh demanded that the Congress leaders like Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should take Sanyaas from politics, as all their ugly political ploys have fallen flat.

He said the BJP would grow stronger in days to come as the entire nation stands firmly behind Prime

Committed to end discrimination, create inclusive society: LG J&K Admin endeavouring to ensure Divyangian's effective participation in socio-economic activities

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said the government is committed to end all discrimination and create an inclusive, just and equitable society in which our Divyangjan enjoy equal opportunities and are able to realise their potential and dreams.

"Various initiatives for inclusion of Divyangjans, including J&K Rights to Persons with Disabilities Rules, Appointment of a Disability Commissioner for focused attention and Registration with National



outstanding contribution to

mitment to Intellectual Disabilities", the Lieutenant Governor said while felicitating the individuals and institutions who have overcome challenges in life to excel in Trust emphasizing the com- various sectors and made

empower Divyangjan, on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Kalpana Kala Kendra in

association Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Jigar Jammu and Anam Sneh Parivar Prayagraj, at Abhinav

J&K Tourism bags 'Family Holiday Destination' award at IITM Hyderabad he articulated the diverse

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism left an indelible mark at the India International Travel Mart (HTM) held in Hyderabad from December 1st to 3rd. Abdul Jabbar , Deputy Director Tourism Publicity, represented J&K Tourism at

the event, making notable contributions.

The J&K Tourism stall emerged as the centre of attraction, drawing attention from attendees. Abdul Jabbar actively engaged in insightful interactions and idea exchange with stakeholders from different states. ■ CONTO ON PAGE 9 During these engagements,

programs and policies of the government, showcasing the rich offerings of Jammu and Kashmir. A moment of immense

pride unfolded as J&K Tourism, under the visionary leadership of Secretary Tourism Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed, received the presti-"Family Holiday gious Destination" award at HTM Hyderabad. The accolade stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication of the entire team. Abdul Jabbar graciously accepted the award on behalf of J&K Tourism This recognition

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Election results in 4 states to

Consider anyone coming to pick up drone-dropped weapons as nation's biggest enemy: DGP



DGP R R Swain chairing a meeting at Samba on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Asserting the drone activities from across up the drone-dropped the border is a challenge, weapons, narcotics and

DGP R R Swain on Sunday said anyone coming to pick

money is the nation's biggest enemy, and will be booked for treason and terrorism.

The Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) said if anyone, who comes to pick up the dronedropped materials, is arrested then he will be degraded and disincentivized in accordance with the law.

"We consider anyone coming to pick up the weapons, ammunition, explosives, narcotics or money as the biggest enemy of the country and the accused will

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Comprehensive security situation in north

Kashmir reviewed STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, V K Birdi on Sunday reviewed the overall security situation in Kupwara district, officials said.

According to a police spokesperson, an anti-terrorist grid with heightened intelligence efforts, the war against drugs, and other related issues were discussed during the meetings.

"The IGP chaired review meetings regarding the security scenario, anti-terrorist operations, recent trend

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

have bearing on LS polls: Azad

SRINAGAR: Democratic Azad leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday said the outcome of the elections to four state assemblies will have a bearing on next year's Lok Sabha

"We are just thereand-a-half months away from the Lok Sabha elections. The results of these (assembly) polls will definitely have a bearing on the par-





day when the trends began to

come in. Azad said, "One thing I have noticed over the past 25 days is that the Congress has

The debates from both the Congress were limited to the backward classes -- they asked about how many chief ministers are from backward classes."

> "Not one leader from the Congress isked even once how many chief ministers

are there from the minorities," he added.

Azad -- who quit the Congress to form

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Exit Poll, Exit Poll, Exit Poll; Real Poll

RAJ DALUJA

Come election season, poll-sters in India emerge like monsoon frogs and sing melodies that they only understand. They create hysteria immediately after the last vote is polled and continue till the moment of reckoning on the counting day-keeping media houses locked in euphoric debates in their 'chat-rooms', leaving audiences perplexed and confused. At the end of the day, the momentum of days together melts down with pollsters, accepting a few negligible exceptions, go wrong. And such of the 'exceptions' also betray the accuracy, notwithstanding their 'hit and run' predictions

or assessments, proving right. The entire exit poll melodrama in Indian politics, owing its existence to the growth of the electronic media, generally

sends a message to the vast spectrum of audiences that most of the pollsters while away their time in posh hotels, on beaches and around picturesque environs, remaining closeted with politicians, acknowledging gifts and dine, wine and dance. Analyzing the assessments and outcomes of exit polls in recent years, the common man is forced to believe that their 'so-called results' sprout from the cozy hotel rooms, having remote connect with ground zero where the poll battle is actually fought. Many of them even don't know anything about the candidates in fray and their backgrounds. Instead of interacting with electors or having on-the-spot feel of election trends, those in 'exitpoll' business remain engaged in sight seeing with families and engrossed in shopping in

the iconic market-places of the places they visit. By the time official results get out, the audiences sum up the exit polls as Bollywood hits - the more dramatic, the better. But do the people really need the suspense and premature excitement, full of a rollercoaster of emotions? If the pollsters and the media houses believe so they are horribly wrong. They better put their act together and realize their responsibility towards the larger Indian community.

Indian voters are complex and most shrewd. They don't give their mind to close ones, even families, least to speak of the so-called 'sample seekers'. The pollsters must understand that response to their queries by electors may not always be accurate due to social desirability bias or other factors, leading to a gap between stated preferences and actual voting behavior. They understand it but keep the 'show going on'; they keep entertaining themselves and the audiences. In the former case, one wonders at whose

The question is why do pollsters generally go wrong in their predictions and assessments. To understand this, one must go into the whole gamut of the exercise undertaken during campaigning and the actual voting. The pollsters cannot counter the accusations of bias that significantly impacts their credibility. They cannot deny that their exercise actually furthers political agendas and pressure of their clients, who commission them for the job. Under the element of pressure, they employ the methodology to get the results the way they want. For this, the questions

are framed and worded in a peculiar way to subtly influence the respondents. Another compelling factor for the pollsters is to satiate the agenda of the media organizations they are affiliated with. Therefore, the perceptions of media bias also spills over the conduct of exit polls. There is another class of pollsters, who unintentionally interpret data in such a way that aligns with their own beliefs and preferences or the obtaining narratives, thus impacting the credibility of their surveys.

Pollsters may unintentionally interpret data in a way that aligns with their own beliefs or the prevailing narratives, leading to confirmation bias.

Some pollsters have affiliations with media organizations, and perceptions of media bias can spill over to the exit polls

they conduct. Media ownership structures can influence the presentation and interpretation of poll results.

The 'exit polls' will continue to remain far from the ground realities as long as the pollsters fail to maintain strict professional standards, adhere to transparent methodologies don't rely on media coverage. ignore astrological predictions and have clear communication with respondents to earn their trust and confidence. The pollsters have to detach themselves from the hospitality extended by political parties and their potential clients in the media. They should also desist to remain confined to the cocoon of 'own people' and diversify sources of polling and ensure a range of perspectives that contribute to understanding the voter pulse.

WEATHER Max: 24.4°C

Max: 88 Max: 12.0°C

Max: 91 Sunset: 17:17 Hours Sunrise: 07:12 Hours