Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

polls in Jammu and Kashmir

April 19

April 26

May 7

May 13

**May 26** 

1. UDHAMPUR:

3. ANANTNAG:

4. SRINAGAR:

5. BARAMULLA:

NIA files charge-sheet against 2 OGWs

in 2023 Kokernag encounter case

2. JAMMU:

Dr Jitendra launches 'Green cultivation' along UU Highways, hails Agri StartUp entrepreneurs

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

JKJA, e-Committee Supreme Court of India organise refresher programme, ECT-9-2024

Daughter of soil sets an example at international scene

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

# 7-phase LS polls to begin on April 19, results on June 4

'The biggest festival of democracy is here': Modi



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar addressing media persons at New Delhi on Saturday.

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha polls will be held in seven phases spread over 44 days starting April 19 in the world's largest election, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi eyeing a third consecutive term in office. Counting of votes will be taken up on

Announcing the poll schedule to elect the 543-member Lok Sabha, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar told a news conference on Saturday that over 97 crore voters--49.7 crore male and lakh polling booths.

While the opposition INDIA bloc remains hit by internal bickerings, Modi, 73, is not just looking to stamp his electoral dominance in the country but is also chasing history looking for another consecutive victory that will equal the country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's record.

Assembly elections Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim will be held on April 19, and in Andhra Pradesh on May 13. Elections to 47.1 crore female--are eligible Odisha assembly will be held

to cast their votes across 10.5

in four phases on May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1. Bypolls will also be held for 26 assembly constituencies in different states, said Kumar, who was flanked by the two new Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir

Singh Sandhu. Polling will be held in all seven phases in three states--Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, all considered key states in the fight for electoral supremacy.

The elections for the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on April

## EC to use two laws, counter-narrative to curb misinformation during polls

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission will use a twopronged strategy to deal with misinformation and fake narratives on social media during the Lok Sabha polls, with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar asserting that the poll body will "join the issue" to provide the correct pic-

Addressing a press conference to announce the schedule for elections to the 18th Lok Sabha, Kumar said the commission will soon launch a "Myth vs Reality" project to clear the air around fake news being spread on social media.

"Misinformation troubles us a lot during elections. We are conscious of two facts -- that social media helps us in our outreach programmes and there is freedom **CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

## Persons above 85, those with more than 40 pc disability can vote from home

NEW DELHI: For the first time in Lok Sabha elections, people above 85 years of age and those with more than 40 per cent disability will be able to cast their votes from home, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced on Saturday. "We are ready to take vote at home for those above the age of 85 years, before nominations we will send form 12 D to their homes to choose the option.

"We have tried this in some parts of the country earlier in assembly elections but this is the first time it will be implemented across the country," Kumar said while addressing a press conference to announce the schedule of the Lok Sabha elections. "If they choose the option of voting from home, we will conduct voting for them at their residence. Our experience is that majority of these people **CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

## LS polls in J&K to be held in five phases

es with voting in each of the five parliamentary constituencies of the Union Territory to be held in each phase, according to the poll schedule announced by the Election Commission or **Sequence of Lok Sabha seat** 

The Lok Sabha polls will be held across the country in seven phases beginning from April 19 and the counting of votes will take place on June 4 for the world's biggest election exercise in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will bid for a third consecutive term. The Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in the Jammu

region will go to polls on April 19 in the first phase. The notification will be issued on March 20 while March 27 will be the last date for filing nominations. The last date for withdrawal of candidature will be March 30.

Voting for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat will be held on April 26 in the second phase of elections. The notification will be issued on March 28 and April 4 will be the last date for filing nominations. April 8 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

The Anantnag constituency, which spreads across the Pir Panjal range and includes Rajouri and Poonch areas after delimitation, will go to polls on May 7 in the third phase. The notifica tion will be issued on April 12 and April 19 will be the last date for filing nominations. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 22. For the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in the Kashmir region, polling will be held in the fourth

phase on May 13. While the notification will be issued on April 18, the last date for nomination filing is April 25. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 29. After delimitation, Pulwama and Shopian districts have been added to the Srinagar Lok

Sabha constituency while two assembly segments -- Budgam and Beerwah -- have been delet-

Baramulla constituency in north Kashmir will go to polls on May 20 in the fifth phase of elec tions. The notification will be issued on April 26 while May 3 will be the last date for filing nominations. The last date for withdrawal of candidature will be May 6. 

CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Assembly polls in J&K to be held as soon as possible after LS election: CEC

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A bank official was arrested on Saturday for allegedly swindling over Rs 1.26 crore from dormant accounts over the past three years in Reasi district, police said.

The fraud by Ishwinder Singh Ranyal, son of Ishvinder Singh, resident of Pouni, at present House No. 60A, Sainik Colony, Jammu, Assistant Manager in J&K Bank Pouni branch, came to light last month when the accused withdrew an amount from an active account, prompting the account holder to lodge a complaint, Reasi Senior Superintendent

### **UAPA Court issues** proclamation orders against two active terrorists

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Court Jammu, designated under NIA Act, on Saturday issued Proclamation orders under section 82 CrPC against two active terrorists involved in Case FIR No. 04/2021 U/S 13, 18,18B, 20, 38,39 UA(P) Act of Police Station JIC Jammu/SIA Jammu.

Before issuing proclamation, the Court issued open ended Non Bailable warrants (NBW) against these terrorists. The proclamation orders were read by a team from SIA Jammu in the conspicuous places of their native villages and copies pasted in conspicuous places of their residential houses and conspicuous place of their villages as well.

Before initiation of further proceedings under law against these terrorists, the Court had given them a chance to surrender before the Court or Investigation agency within one month time from the date of

CONTD ON PAGE 9 WEATHER Max: 27.0°C Max : 68 Max: 19.4°C Max: 70 Min: 22

Sunset: 18:38 Hours

Sunrise: 06:39 Hours

of Police (SSP) Mohita Sharma said.

Bank official withdrew Rs 1.26 Cr

from dormant accounts; arrested

After receiving the complaint and sensing the gravity of the offence, a special team was constituted and Ranyal, a resident of Pouni, was finally arrested from Sainik Colony in Jammu this morning, the officer said.

"The criminal was evading arrest for the last one month. He wrongfully gained the amount causing loss of public money of worth Rs 126.34 lakh by way of cheating and falsification of accounts at J&K Bank Branch Pouni, Sharma said. She said the modus operandi

STATE TIMES NEWS

asserted on Saturday

that what is being seen

as certain in a world

plagued by uncertainty

is that India will contin-

ue to grow at a fast

Speaking at a con-

is driven by "nation first" and

without naming the opposi-

tion, added they are guided

by a "family first" approach.

Exuding confidence of his

government retaining power

in the Lok Sabha polls, Modi

clave of the 'India Today' group, he said he

Minister Narendra Modi

I am driven by 'nation first', some by

DELHI: Prime

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR:

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced on Saturday that the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir would take place soon after the Lok Sabha polls due to security concerns, with both events deemed unfeasible to be held simultaneously.

The Lok Sabha polls will be conducted in seven phases starting April 19, with the results to be declared on June 4, while voting in Jammu and Kashmir will take place in five phases. Several political part

'family first': Modi's swipe at rivals

said people will see decisive

policies and decisions being

made in the next five years.

He has been working on

The next five years will be a

guarantee of a stable, capa-

ble and strong India to the

world while development will

be taken to new heights, he

them, Modi said.

the Election Commission's (EC) decision not to conduct simultaneous polls in the Union Territory. "But Political parties react

ted that as soon as these elections are

stand commit-

over ... we will have availability of (security) forces then, we will hold elections there (in Jammu and Kashmir) as soon as possible," Kumar, who was in the Union Territory recently to hold consultations with political parties and the administration, said.

He clarified that the lo

He said his government has

to corruption and given a

freehand to investigation

agencies, and that is why

some people are having a

pain in their stomach, an

apparent reference to

opposition leaders who

have accused the govern-

ment of misusing the

probe bodies to target its

While the Enforcement

Directorate had seized only

Rs 5,000 crore till 2014, it

has attached assets worth

over Rs 1 lakh crore

maintained "zero-tolerance"

expressed disappointment at cal challenge of providing security to every candidate in the Union Territory during nationwide polls made holding both events concurrently impractical.

"The entire

administrative machinery in one voice said it cannot be done simultaneously. Every Assembly segment would have 10-12 candidates, which would mean more than 1,000 candidates. Every candidate has to be provided security. It was not possible at this time," the CEC said.

During consultations with political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, the necessity

## Pak intruder

district,

Mohd Nadeem, a resident of Samani village of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), was intercepted by the alert army troops in Nowshera sector when he was moving into this side from across the border late

They said the troops were on patrolling duty when they noticed an unarmed intruder and subsequently arrested him after a brief chase.

## arrested along LoC **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: A 34-year-old Pakistani intruder was arrested along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri officials Saturday said.

Friday, the officials said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# to form weak government within country: Chugh

for simultaneous polls was

stressed and the absence of

Assembly elections in the

region since 2014 highlight-

"We are very conscious

about it. We are also blamed

for it from time to time.

When we went there (Jammu

and Kashmir), people said we

had to go to the Supreme

Court to ask you to conduct

He said the Jammu and

Kashmir Reorganisation Act

was amended in December

2023 after a delimitation

polls...," Kumar said.

#### exercise and the clock started ticking for the EC since CONTD ON PA

JAMMU: The NIA on Saturday filed a charge-sheet against two overground workers of the Lashkar-e-

Taiba (LeT) in a case related to an encounter in south Kashmir's Kokernag forest that left four security personnel and two terrorists dead in September last year. The charge-sheet against

STATE TIMES NEWS

Mohd Akbar Dar and Ghulam Nabi Dar, both residents of the Kokernag area of Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, was filed before the NIA Special Court here under the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act and the Unlawful

(Prevention) Act, the antiterror agency said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had taken over the case on December 5 after it was initially registered on September 13, 2023, at the Kokernag police station following a week-long encounter at the Guri Nad

Four security personnel, including a colonel, a major and a deputy superintendent of police, were killed in the incident.

LeT commander Uzair Khan and an unidentified terrorist were also killed during the encounter. Khan,

energize party

workers for LS polls

JAMMU: BJP National

General Secretary Tarun

Chugh, who is also the party

Incharge for J&K, on

Saturday conducted a hurri-

cane tour of the two Lok

Sabha seats, Jammu and

# Farooq, Chhote Mian, Mufti, Gandhi families want

'This election is between weak and strong' Launches campaign to



Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary and Prabhari Jammu and Kashmir addressing party workers.

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** KATHUA: Tarun Chugh,

National General Secretary and Prabhari Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday said

that the dynastic politics is the biggest curse in democracy and the people of the country hate the leaders of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Udhampur, and addressed more than 30 meetings with the party workers. During his two-day trip Chugh addressed meetings for Dr Jugal Kishor, BJP

candidate for Jammu. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Sinha addresses SRCC's Business Conclave 2024

## Concrete steps taken to create fear-free, corruption-free, terrorism-free J&K: LG

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that concrete steps have been taken to create a fear-free, corruptionand terrorism-free Jammu and Kashmir.

"People-centric governance, efficient public service delivery mechanism, accelerated speed of project completion, saturation of welfare schemes and equal opportunity for all have empowered the common man and improved ease of living", the Lt Governor said while addressing the Business Conclave 2024 organized by Shri Ram College



rivals

LG Manoj Sinha addressing at SRCC's Business Conclave 2024 in New Delhi on Saturday.

Commerce (SRCC) in New

In his keynote address, the Lt Governor shared the achievements of J&K UT after abrogation of Article 370 and vision for its future.

"Today J&K is growing at an impressive pace and quiet transformation is taking place in various sectors. We have embarked on a transformation of key economic areas to achieve the goals of inclu-

sive and rapid development to fulfill the aspirations of the people," the  $\bar{\text{Lt}}$  Governor said.

Interacting with the students of SRCC, the Lt Governor highlighted the

challenges, and achievements in diverse sectors under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Today, Jammu Kashmir has become the centre of innovation, industries, tourism, education, sports, agriculture, health, entrepreneurship and handicrafts, the Lt Governor said.

He said the commitment of the administration towards inclusive development has created an enabling environment for the deprived sections, youth, women and farmers to unleash their true potential. The Lt Governor said that policy for him

**■ CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

## DGP, Corps Commander review security situation in Jammu ahead of LS polls

#### STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain and General officer Commanding of 16 Corps Lt General Navin Sachdeva on Saturday reviewed the security situation in the Jammu region ahead of Lok Sabha elections, police said.

Udhampur and Jammu parliamentary constituencies in the Jammu region are going to polls in the first two phases of the seven-phased Lok Sabha elections on April 19 and 26 followed by three seats spread mostly in the Kashmir valley, including Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar and Baramulla on May 7, 13 and 20, respectively.

"The DGP and Corps

Commander of the strategic 16 corps jointly presided over a high-level meeting and reviewed the security in the Jammu region keeping in view, among other things, the forthcoming parliamentary elections." spokesman said.

He said the meeting was attended by senior army commanders and police officers, including Additional Director General of Police, Law & Order, Vijay Kumar, ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, IG BSF D K Boora, province-level senior officers of the central agencies and representative officers from other central armed police forces, including the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9