

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! ECI notifies scheme...

Likewise, the Deputy Director, Horticulture, Planning & Marketing, Delhi and Deputy Secretary, office of Resident Commissioner, New Delhi, are appointed as the ARO for the receipt of applications, conduct of poll, etc., at the special polling station(s) to be provided in Delhi. Collector, Northern Railways, Udhampur is appointed as ARO in respect of the special polling station(s) at Udhampur.

For the General Elections to Lok Sabha - 2024, the Election Commission has advised the migrant voters to send their forms, Form M for voting in person at any of the 'Special Polling Stations' or Form 12 C for using the postal ballot to the concerned Assistant Returning Officers to reach them on or 10 days before the date of poll separately for each phase of the polling.

Kashmiri migrant voters, who are residing at various relief camps in Delhi, Jammu, and Udhampur and who opt to cast their votes in person through Electronic Voting Machines at the forthcoming General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 2024 can do so at any one of the polling stations at Women's College, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Indian Institute of Management, Canal Road, Jammu, Directorate School Education, Muthi, Jammu, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Janipur, Jammu, Migrant School, Purkhoo, Jammu, Agriculture Complex, Talab Tillo, Jammu, Govt. Mixed Higher Secondary School, Muthi, Migrant School, Nagrota, Jammu, Govt. Higher Secondary School, (Migrants) Jagti-A, Jammu, Govt. Higher Secondary School, (Migrants) Jagti-B, Jammu, Anuradha Higher Sec. School, Barnai, Jammu, Agriculture University Complex, Udhaiyala, Jammu, J&K Board of School Education, Rehari, Jammu-A, Govt. Middle School, (Migrants), Jagti, Community Hall Jagti, Govt. Girls Middle School Chak Changerwan Chinore Chowk, Jammu, Govt. Girls Primary School Gangyal, Jammu, Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Poni Chak, J&K Board of School Education, Rehari, Jammu-B, Govt. High School Sagoon, Miran Sahib, Govt. Higher Secondary School Channi, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Udhampur, J&K House, 5, Prithiviraj Road, New Delhi, Office of the Deputy Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Paprawat, New Delhi and Arwachin International School, P-Block, Dilshad Garden, Delhi.

Applications in Form M and Form 12C for all phases can be submitted immediately after the notification of this scheme.

Those who wish to exercise their franchise in person at Special Polling Stations should intimate details of the electors in their families to the Assistant Returning Officers mentioned below, in prescribed Form 'M', which is available free of cost at the office of these Assistant Returning Officers, as well as can be downloaded from Commission's website (www.eci.gov.in) or Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir's Web site (www.ceojk.nic.in). These Forms must reach the Assistant Returning Officers at least ten days before the date of poll in the respective Constituency. The Option once given shall be final. Assistant Commissioner, Relief (Migrant), Jammu, Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat, Udhampur, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, Delhi, and Deputy Secretary, office of Resident Commissioner, New Delhi.

Any migrant elector, other than those who opted to vote in person can avail the option to vote through postal ballot papers. For this, an application in Form 12C has to be made and copies of these forms are also available in the offices of the Assistant Returning Officers mentioned above as well as can be downloaded from the Commission's website (www.eci.gov.in) or Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir's Web site (www.ceojk.nic.in). All the application forms (Form 12 C) duly filled in, requesting for the Postal Ballot must reach the Assistant Returning Officer at Jammu so as to reach him 10 days before the date of poll for each phase. To facilitate the attestation of forms, a sufficient number of Gazetted Officers will be available at these centers and will attest the same.

The dates of poll in the three Parliamentary Constituencies are as under:
Phase No. and Name of PCs/Name of Districts Date of Poll
Schedule - III 3-Anantnag-Rajouri 07.05.2024
Schedule - IV 2-Srinagar 13.05.2024
Schedule - V 1-Baramulla 20.05.2024

They can also drop their application forms, and later on, their marked postal ballot papers in the special letter-boxes, which will also be available at the offices of all the Assistant Returning Officers mentioned above.

In addition to the above, instructions, the Commission has also extended an online facility for the Migrant electors residing at various places other than Jammu, Udhampur, and Delhi to download Form 'M' and Form '12C' from the ECI website or Voter Services Portal. After filling, such Forms the migrant electors shall approach the office of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of the constituency in which they are residing at present, anywhere in the country. The Electoral Registration Officers can have access to the details of migrant electors enrolled in different Parliamentary Constituencies (Assembly segment-wise) in Kashmir through ERO-Net. The ERO concerned, after verifying details in the Form 'M' will scan and upload the same to electronically transmit to the AROs Migrants at Delhi, Jammu, and Udhampur for further necessary action. Hard copies so uploaded shall also be sent to AROs Migrant Delhi, Jammu, and Udhampur as the case may be.

Similarly, the ERO concerned will verify the details in Form 12-C and sign the certificate in Part- II of the Form and scan and upload it to electronically transmit the same to the ARO Migrant at Jammu who will take further necessary action to send Postal Ballot to the elector concerned. Hard copies so uploaded are to be sent to ARO Migrant at Jammu.

The postal Ballot will be sent through Speed Post to the elector concerned by the ARO Migrant, Jammu. The elector can send polled Postal Ballot through Speed post (free of cost) to the Returning Officer concerned of the Parliamentary Constituency to which he/she belongs so that the same can reach the RO concerned in time. The cost of Speed Post will be paid by the R.O. concerned.

In case of any grievances, the Kashmiri migrants can approach the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir (ceo-jk@nic.in) or the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K (relief-ecomm@jk.gov.in, 0191-2586218, 9622189330) or use the toll-free facility of the Commission (1950).

Govt bans private...

Dr. Ishdyaq Abdullah, Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Government Medical College, Baramulla shall, with immediate effect, cease to indulge in any private practice across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir; reads an order issued by Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department.

BSF Special DG...

the LoC and hinterland, he said. The spokesman said the visit included an aerial reconnaissance and visits to forward defended localities, as well as to the Sector Headquarters (SHQ) BSF in Kupwara and Srinagar.

At each location, the SDG engaged with the local BSF Commanders and troops gaining firsthand insights into the security scenario and operational readiness along the LoC.

Khurania also called on General Officer Commanding (GoC) 15 Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, and discussed the collaborative efforts between the BSF and the Army, and underscored the paramount importance of synergy for achieving peace, prosperity and development in the valley, the spokesman said.

The BSF officer visited the Composite Hospital and STC BSF, Kashmir, where he reviewed ongoing physical and professional skill training of recruits.

He commended the professionalism and expertise of the training team at STC BSF, Kashmir, highlighting their role in shaping the future of BSF personnel.

During the visit, Khurania interacted with senior officers, subordinate officers and jawans through a "Prahari Sammelan".

The BSF SDG lauded the high level of professionalism exhibited by the BSF personnel and urged them to maintain high vigil to thwart any attempts to disrupt peace and harmony in the valley.

Khurania's visit to the Kashmir Frontier underscores the BSF's unwavering commitment to safeguard India's borders and ensure the safety and security of its citizens, the spokesman said.

Congress names Ch...

has named Choudhary Lal Singh, who recently joined the party in New Delhi, as its candidate for Udhampur constituency and senior leader and JKPCC working president Raman Balla as its candidate from Jammu constituency.

Army Chief visits...

commitment in exhibiting high standard of professionalism and maintaining a stable and secure environment in the region," the ADGPI said on X.

The visit of the Army chief comes amid heightened security arrangements in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory will be held in the first five of the seven-phased elections on April 19 (Udhampur) and 26 (Jammu) in Jammu region and May 7 (Anantnag-Rajouri), 13 (Srinagar) and 20 (Baramulla) in Kashmir valley. The counting of votes will be held on June 4.

Death toll from...

attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media. A US intelligence official told The Associated Press that US agencies had confirmed that the group was responsible for the attack.

In an address to the nation on Saturday, Russian President said authorities had detained 11 people, including four who took part in the attack. He also suggested they had been trying to cross the border into Ukraine which, he said, tried to create a "window" to help them escape.

Ukraine has strongly denied any involvement and accused Moscow of using the attack to try to stoke fervour in its war effort.

Putin said authorities have detained 11 people in the attack.

In an address to the nation, Putin called it "a bloody, barbaric terrorist act" and said all four people who were directly involved had been taken into custody. He suggested they had been trying to cross the border into Ukraine which, he said, tried to create a "window" to help them escape.

The Islamic State group's Afghanistan branch claimed responsibility for Friday's attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media. A US intelligence official told The Associated Press that US agencies had confirmed that the group was responsible for the attack.

The attack, which was the deadliest in Russia in years, came just days after Putin cemented his grip on power in a highly orchestrated electoral landslide and as the country's war in Ukraine dragged into a third year.

Tulip garden in...

also increased the area of the tulip garden by adding another two lakh bulbs. A record 17 lakh tulip bulbs have been planted in the garden spread over 55 hectares, the officials said.

Other spring flowers such as hyacinths, daffodils, muscari and cyclamens will also be on display to add to the variety of flowers and colours in the garden, they said.

The Indra Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden was set up by Ghulam Nabi Azad, the then-chief minister of the erstwhile state, in 2007 to advance the tourist season in Jammu and Kashmir that was earlier limited to summers and winters. The garden started on a small scale with 50,000 tulip bulbs imported from The Netherlands. It instantly gained popularity and has been steadily growing each year -- both in terms of the number of visitors and the tulips. More than 3.65 lakh visitors, both domestic and foreign, visited the garden last year while it witnessed a footfall of 3.60 lakh people in 2022.

The tulip garden is also one of the favourite locations for shooting films and videos as several units from across the country shot parts of their projects at the site last year. The official added that the department has added nearly 22,000 square feet of additional parking space for the convenience of visitors.

Referral Judges have...

Court Legal Services Committee were the Resource Persons for the programme.

While delivering the inaugural address, Justice Tashi highlighted that the mediation embodies principles of cooperation and consensus-building. He said that by prioritizing relationships and collaboration, mediation transcends the limitations of the courtroom and offers a more holistic approach to conflict resolution. He added that mediation empowers individuals to resolve their conflicts swiftly, amicably, and on their own terms. He underlined that the referral judges must possess a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of mediation, as an effective alternative dispute resolution tool in their hands.

Justice Tashi stressed that referral judges play a pivotal role in promoting the use of mediation as an alternative to traditional litigation and huge responsibility lies on their shoulder to make mediation successful. Referring to the dismal figures of cases referred for mediation by the District Judiciary in the UT of J&K during the year 2023, Justice Tashi observed that we are lagging far behind than other States.

He strongly urged upon all the participating referral judges as also the trial judges as a whole to embrace the principles of mediation to foster a legal system that is not only efficient and equitable but also conducive in nurturing harmonious relationships and promoting social cohesion.

Yash Paul Bournay, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, in his welcome address, gave an overview of the programme. Quoting Chief Justice of India, Justice Dr. D. Y. Chandrachud, he said that Mediation offers citizens a forum to not only determine the outcome of their disputes, but also to determine the criteria and standards by which those outcomes are evaluated. He highlighted that mediation as an Alternate or Additional Dispute Resolution mechanism, is not new to India and has been existing as part of dispute resolution mechanism since times immemorial.

He added that mediation in its present form is a much refined and structured concept for effective resolution of disputes with the help of a third neutral person who assists the disputant parties to resolve their differences amicably. He reflected that benefits of mediation are manifold. Firstly, it offers a cost-effective and time-efficient alternative to traditional litigation, sparing parties from protracted court battles and exorbitant legal fees. Secondly, mediation promotes flexibility and autonomy, allowing parties to retain control over the outcome of their dispute rather than surrendering it to a judge and moreover, mediation promotes confidentiality, preserving the privacy of sensitive information and mitigating reputational risks.

Rajinder Sapoo, Coordinator, Mediation & Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, proposed vote of thanks and also conducted the proceedings of the day-long programme.

The inaugural session was followed by working sessions during which Vinay Kumar Gupta, Former Principal District & Session Judge, Delhi deliberated on the topics of ADR, Code of Civil Procedure 1908, and Mediation Act 2023. The learned resource person also highlighted the role of referral judges and discussed various guidelines for referral judges.

All the sessions were highly interactive during which the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource person.

Pakistan sponsoring terrorism...

not going to say, 'well, that happened and let's continue our dialogue'...we have a problem and we must be honest enough to face up to that problem, however difficult it is...we should not give the other country a free pass, saying there's nothing they can do about it or it's a very hard problem, or there's so much else at stake that let us overlook," he asserted. In India now, Jaishankar said, "the mood is not to overlook terrorists".

JKSCERT postpones MSE...

(MSE) scheduled to be held on 24th, 26th & 29th of March, 2024 in respect of soft zone and 26th & 29th of March, 2024 in respect of hard zone notified vide No: SCERT/C/AssCel/2024/869-96 Dated: 02-03-2024 hereby stand postponed," read a notification issued by Joint Director Central, JKSCERT. "The fresh dates for conduct of these papers of both Soft, zone and Hard Zone shall be notified in due course of time." it added.

Jaish-e-Mohammad...

Acting on specific information, a joint Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) was established in Kenihama area in Nowgam in the outskirts of the city this evening, the spokesperson said. During checking, a vehicle was intercepted by the security forces and four terror associates were arrested, the spokesperson said. He identified them as Mohammad Yaseen Bhat, Sheraz Ahmad Rather, and Gulam Hassan Khandey -- all from Lechnambal Zafran Colony Pantha Chowk -- and Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Frestabal Pampore.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including an AK 56 rifle with three magazines, 75 rounds of 7.62 x 39 mm, a Glock Pistol with two magazines, 26 rounds of 9 mm and six Chinese grenades were recovered from them, the spokesperson said. During preliminary investigation, it was found that the apprehended individuals were linked with the proscribed terror outfit JeM, he said. A case under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and IPC has been registered and further investigation is in progress, the spokesperson said.

CEO reviews election preparations across Kishtwar Distt

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: With an aim to ensure smooth, transparent and inclusive electoral process, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday conducted a comprehensive visit of Kishtwar district to review preparations for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

The visit encompassed inspection of Intermediate Strong Rooms as well as inspection of facilities available for Lok Sabha Election at established Polling stations of far off places like Marwah, Warwan and Machail Paddar areas of the district.

The CEO during the visit took stock of arrangements and preparations for the upcoming elections. He issued necessary directions to concerned officials besides emphasising them to adhere to the guidelines issued by Election Commission of India.

CEO, on the occasion, also interacted with voters and briefed them about the importance of maximum participation in the democratic exercise.

He also inspected the strong rooms at District HQ ensuring randomization of EVMs and other related exercises, ensuring transparency and accountability in the electoral process.

Later, the CEO a comprehensive meeting with various stakeholders, election staff, Nodal officer of Model Code of Conduct, Election Expenditure Monitoring teams, and Social Media



CEO, J&K, Pandurang K Pole during visit to Kishtwar.

Monitoring Committee at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex here.

During the meeting, DEO Kishtwar alongside NLMT ECI, Riaz Ahmed Butt delivered a detailed presentation on the district Elector profile-Electoral Roll besides highlighting various preparations on the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and Election Expenditure Monitoring.

CEO stressed on the strict adherence to the guidelines and timeline for MCC and Print and Electronic Media Monitoring.

He also stressed upon the importance of initiating door-to-door campaigns to maximize voter turnout under SVEEP. He urged all stakeholders to perform their duties with dedication, integrity and proactive approach, considering the upcoming election as the largest democratic exercise.

He emphasized on the efficiency and effective implementation of MCC and Election Expenditures Monitoring, along with strict adherence to Social Media Monitoring.

New curriculum, books for grades 3 and 6 from 2024-25, no change in syllabus for other classes: CBSE

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will release a new syllabus and textbooks for Classes 3 and 6 while there will be no change in the curriculum and textbooks for other grades for the academic year 2024-25 commencing from April 1, according to CBSE officials.

The NCERT has informed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) that the new syllabi and textbooks for classes 3 and 6 are currently under development and will be released soon, the CBSE said in a communication sent to affiliated schools.

"Consequently, schools are advised to follow these new syllabi and textbooks for classes 3 and 6 in place of textbooks published by NCERT till the year 2023,"

said Joseph Emmanuel, Director (Academics), CBSE.

"Additionally, a bridge course for class 6, and concise guidelines for class 3 are being developed by the NCERT for facilitating a seamless transition for students to new pedagogical practices and areas of study aligned with new curriculum framework, 2023. These resources will be disseminated to all the schools online once they are received from NCERT.

"The Board will also organize capacity-building programs for school heads and Teachers to orient them with the new teaching learning perspectives as envisioned in NEP-2020," he added in the letter.

In a revision of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) after 18 years, the Ministry of

Education had last year notified the changes. The NCF had undergone four revisions in the past - in 1975, 1988, 2000, and 2005.

The council is in process of preparing new school textbooks in line with the new national curriculum framework for school education (NCF-SE) 2023 as a part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

"There will be no change in the Curriculum and textbooks for other classes for the academic year 2024-25 commencing from April 1, 2024," he said.

The board has also advised the schools to follow the NCF-SE recommendations and incorporate methodologies such as Multilingualism, Art-Integrated Education, Experiential Learning, and Pedagogical Plans, wherever feasible.

Kejriwal moves HC against arrest

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday moved the Delhi High Court challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate and a trial court's six-day remand order in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

In his plea that also sought urgent hearing, Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED on Thursday night, contended that his arrest and remand were illegal and he was entitled to be released from custody immediately.

AAP sources said Kejriwal's legal team urged the high court to hear the plea urgently, preferably on Sunday, but the court is unlikely to grant an urgent hearing.

According to highly placed court sources, the plea is unlikely to be heard before March 27 as the court is closed for Holi break.

The move by the chief minister came even as his wife Sunita Kejriwal in a video statement read out his message sent from the ED custody in which the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief said he cannot be kept behind bars for long and he will return soon to fulfil his promises to the people.

Amid a renewed demand by

the BJP for his resignation, the CM also said he was not surprised at his arrest and that the "BJP people" need not be hated for this as they are "our brothers and sisters."

While the BJP slammed Kejriwal's continuation as the chief minister despite being under arrest, saying it is the most unfortunate moment in the country's political journey and the worst kind of politics, Delhi minister Atishi targeted the ED.

Atishi claimed that a news conference that the ED has not been able to establish any money trail against any AAP leader despite multiple raids, arrests and two year-long investigations in the alleged excise policy scam. The ED on Friday had alleged that Kejriwal is the "kingpin and key conspirator" in the case.

Kejriwal's party colleague and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, meanwhile, in an interview to PTI videos said if his Delhi counterpart is sent to jail the AAP will approach the court seeking permission to set up his office in prison to run his government from there.

On Friday, a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court had remanded Kejriwal in ED custody till March 28

"for his detailed and sustained interrogation."

The ED had arrested Kejriwal hours after the high court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the central anti-money laundering agency.

The chief minister had approached the high court for quashing and setting aside all proceedings including the summonses issued against him.

The case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 which was later scrapped.

Top AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh are in judicial custody in the case. Kejriwal's name has been mentioned multiple times in the charge sheets filed by the ED.

The agency has alleged that the accused were in touch with Kejriwal for formulating the excise policy that resulted in undue benefits to them in return for which they paid kickbacks to the AAP.

The video statement by Sunita Kejriwal, a former IRS officer who has so far maintained a distance from active politics, was streamed live by the AAP.