

General, Police Observer review preparations for elections in border district Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: General Observer, Sanjeev Kumar Besra and Police Observer, Akhileshwar Singh chaired a meeting of officers associated to review arrangements for Lok Sabha elections in Rajouri district.



General Observer, Sanjeev Kumar Besra and Police Observer, Akhileshwar Singh chairing meeting at Rajouri.

During the meeting, key aspects of the election preparations were meticulously examined.

District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, provided detailed PowerPoint presentation, elaborating the electoral landscape of the district, informing that 680 polling stations and a total of 484,725 voters are in district.

Moreover, the meeting reviewed the status of Assured Minimum Facilities at polling stations. The DEO also highlighted the completion of physical verification of polling stations, ensuring their readiness for upcoming elections.

It was informed that ade-

quate resources, including Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines, manpower, Security and infrastructure, are in place to facilitate smooth conduct of the elections. Additionally, the establishment of training centers, dispatch/receipt centers, and strong rooms were also discussed to ensure operational efficiency of the District Election Team.

Giving further details, the District Election Officer reassured the Observers that ample manpower have been trained and deployed for the forthcoming elections.

He said a robust voter awareness campaigns in on

under the SVEEP initiative to bolster voter turnout and inclusivity. The district SVEEP cell is actively engaged in organizing a myriad of awareness programs to ensure that every eligible voter is empowered to exercise their franchise he added.

The District Election Officer also informed the Observers that a special area plan had been devised for the 45 polling stations located in the border areas.

Recognizing the unique challenges and security considerations of these regions, the plan aims to ensure the seamless conduct of elections while prioritizing the safety and accessibility of voters and election personnel.

Meanwhile, the Senior Superintendent of Police also briefed the observers about the comprehensive security measures taken to safeguard the electoral process. He outlined strategies to enhance security at polling stations, deployment of personnel, surveillance teams, and other measures. Additionally, the status of cash seizure by Static Surveillance Teams (SST) and Flying Surveillance Teams (FST) was given out in meeting.

The Observers also reviewed the preparations concerning shadow areas, recognizing the challenges posed by the lack of connectivity in these regions. They emphasized the necessity of deploying alternative communication methods and logistical solutions to address the requirements of these areas during the electoral process.

The Observers also reiterated the paramount importance of strict adherence to

Election Commission of India guidelines. They also meticulously outlined the various tasks and duties assigned to the concerned officers encompassing a wide array of responsibilities. They directed the officers to exhibit exemplary commitment, dedication and sincerity while discharging their election duties, recognizing their pivotal role in facilitating free, fair and peaceful elections.

Later, the Observers also visited the counting centres and strong rooms established at Government Degree College Rajouri.

The meeting was attended by ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandan; ADC Koteranka, Adil Mir; ASP, Abdul Majid Basu; ACR, Mohammad Jahangir Khan; Dy DEO, Shakeel Mir; SDM Thanamandi, Abid Hussain Shah; Distt Information Officer, Mohammad Nawaz Choudhary; EXEN REW, Zahir Khan and other concerned officers.

Udhampur's elderly voters show dedication for upholding democracy

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR/RAMNAGAR/BILLAWAR: In the picturesque hills of Udhampur, amidst the drizzling rain, stood Chummi Lal, a 91-year-old beacon of unwavering commitment to democracy. Resolute with his walking stick, Lal braved the weather to be the first in queue at the Upper Garmai village polling station for the Lok Sabha General elections of 2024.

"I don't exactly know how many votes I have cast till now. But I will always do my duty to strengthen the democratic process of our country," declared Lal as his voice resonated with the wisdom of ages.

Before heading out to cast his ballot, Lal followed his morning routine, a breakfast followed by the catching up on the day's news on his television set. At the Government School in Upper Garmai, fellow voters honored Lal, making way for him to vote unhindered, a tradition born out of deep respect for his steadfast dedication to

the electoral process. Similarly, in another corner of Udhampur, a heart-warming tale unfolded at the Govt High School Ritti polling station. Naseeb Singh, 93, and his wife Shanti Devi, 87, epitomized the spirit of civic duty as they embarked on a one-kilometer journey, traversing rugged terrain to cast their votes. Accompanied by their son, the elderly couple was greeted with warmth and assistance from polling staff and fellow citizens upon their arrival.

With steady steps, Naseeb Singh and Shanti Devi entered the polling booth, ready to add yet another ballot to their storied rich history of electoral participation.

"All the arrangements were good; we didn't face any problem while casting our vote," expressed Shanti Devi, her words echoing the sentiment of a community united in upholding the democratic process.

Meanwhile, amidst the relentless downpour, 75-year-

old Vishno Devi displayed unwavering determination at Roun village of Udhampur district to cast her ballot.

Undeterred by the rain, she stood in a lengthy queue, umbrella in hand, patiently waiting for her turn to exercise her democratic right. After enduring a 30-minute wait, Devi finally marked her vote, her steadfastness echoing the importance of this civic duty. Reflecting on her experience, she remarked, "The wait was worth it. Such opportunities to choose our representatives only come once every five years."

The Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed these inspiring acts of civic engagement during the first phase of the Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

As the rain continued to fall softly, the resilience and dedication of these elderly voters served as a poignant reminder of the enduring strength of democracy amidst the tranquil hills of Udhampur.

Baru convenes series of meetings at Kalakot-Sunderbani

STATE TIMES NEWS
SUNDERBANI: Sanjay Baru, senior BJP leader, convened a series of meetings at Mandal levels, in which senior leaders, Shakti Kendra Convenors, and Booth Presidents from Kalakot-Sunderbani constituency participated.



Sanjay Baru, senior BJP leader convening a meeting at Sunderbani.

District President Nowshera Neena Sharma, District Seh-Prabhari Balkrishna, District General Secretary Pritam Sharma, and BJYM Vice-President Yuvraj Singh also accompanied Sanjay Baru during these meetings.

Sanjay Baru, while addressing these meetings, asked the party cadre to shift their focus to the ground-level activation of the booths. He asked them to do excessive groundwork in

order to make a man-to-man contact to secure maximum votes in the polling to be conducted on the 26th of April.

He said that Jammu & Kashmir have been immensely benefitted by the hardworking MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, who has been following the course of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's vision. He said that the local MP has always raised the voice of people in the Lok Sabha, which has been instrumental in bringing many projects to the Jammu Parliamentary constituency by the Modi government.

Sanjay Baru further said BJP is on a winning spree

because of the blessings of the people and the hard work of party workers. He praised the local MP Jugal Kishore Sharma for his dedication in reaching up to maximum areas and ensure development during all these years.

Sanjay Baru added that political parties like Congress, NC, and PDP have looted and plundered the state. He said that the people have already shown them the doors and these parties are fighting for their political survival because they have been exposed.

Sanjay Baru exhorted upon all the leaders present in the meeting to present these facts before the people and seek votes in favour of the Modi government to boost the development in the region.

DEO Samba visits border villages, inspects Polling stations, bunkers

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: District Election Officer (DEO), Samba, Abhishek Sharma visited border villages, during which he conducted comprehensive inspection of Polling Stations and bunkers in the area.

The inspection was aimed to evaluate the preparedness for upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024 in the district.

Accompanied by ASP, Surinder Choudhary, Nodal officer SVEEP Mohd Sayeed, DIO, Ashiq Rafiq, Tehsildar and other district and Sectoral officers, the DEO undertook a detailed visit to several polling stations including Green Polling Stations established at GMS Manguchak, GHS Sarthian



DEO Samba, Abhishek Sharma during visit to border villages on Friday.

and PS Chalyari Khurd-B. These Green Polling Stations have Rain Water harvesting facility and solar plants. The Green polling booths will be decorated with twigs and leaves, and are set to witness no plastic usage.

The DEO took appraisal of arrangements for the

night stay of polling staff and security personnel. The basic minimum amenities like electricity, water supply, sanitation facilities, and accessibility for differently-abled voters were also assessed at these polling stations. During the inspection, the DEO engaged with the

stakeholders and asked them to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate smooth and efficient voting and other election related process. He directed the officers to submit the contingency route chart.

Expressing satisfaction over preparedness, the DEO underscored the importance of adhering to prescribed ECI guidelines at all polling stations, strong rooms and counting Halls.

He reiterated the unwavering commitment of administration to facilitate free, fair, and transparent elections, wherein every eligible citizen can exercise his/her democratic right with confidence and ease.

SSF Court was not competent and lacked jurisdiction to try 'civil offences' under Section 46 of the BSF Act 1968: HC

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Justice MA Chowdhary of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court holds that the Summary Security Force (SSF) Court was not competent and lacked jurisdiction to try 'civil offences' under Section 46 of the BSF Act 1968 except simple theft or theft and quashed the punishment of dismissal from service so imposed on the petitioner.

This significant order has been passed in a petition filed by Sumanta Dutta seeking quashment of Order No. Estt/THQ/55Bn/SSFC-SD/04/13354-62 dated November 29, 2004 by the Summary Security Force Court, without jurisdiction, is nullity in the eyes of law and accordingly, the same is hereby quashed alongwith all the proceedings. As a consequence thereof, the petitioner is entitled to be re-instated in service. Since the civil offence of outraging the modesty of school girl children punishable under Section 354 RPC, is a serious charge, the respondents shall be at liberty to proceed against the petitioner in a competent Security Force Court, afresh. The payment of back wages shall be subject to the fact, as to whether the respondents choose to prosecute the petitioner or not and in case they do not prosecute him, the petitioner shall be entitled to full back wages from the date of dismissal till his reinstatement.

after hearing Sr. Adv Strinder Kour with Manpreet Kour for the petitioner, while allowing the petition, observed that the imposition of punishment of dismissal from service vide impugned Order No. Estt/THQ/55Bn/SSFC-SD/04/13354-62 dated November 29, 2004 by the Summary Security Force Court, without jurisdiction, is nullity in the eyes of law and accordingly, the same is hereby quashed alongwith all the proceedings. As a consequence thereof, the petitioner is entitled to be re-instated in service. Since the civil offence of outraging the modesty of school girl children punishable under Section 354 RPC, is a serious charge, the respondents shall be at liberty to proceed against the petitioner in a competent Security Force Court, afresh. The payment of back wages shall be subject to the fact, as to whether the respondents choose to prosecute the petitioner or not and in case they do not prosecute him, the petitioner shall be entitled to full back wages from the date of dismissal till his reinstatement.

Vote Modi to support progress, vote to INDI alliance means pushing nation to bloodshed, scams: Khatana



MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana during public rally at R S Pura.

STATE TIMES NEWS
R.S PURA: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that vote for Modi will truly mean support to progress, peace, security, employment while vote for INDI alliance may surely push the nation towards bloodshed, destruction, loot, corruption, scams, uncertainty, cross border terrorism and migration.

In his hard-hitting style the firebrand BJP leader

was addressing different public meetings at Agre Chak, Kadyal, Adlehar, Chak Bala and other small hamlets in border town of R.S Pura during a programme organised by Mansa Choudhary.

Khatana asked the people to have a look at the development works and progress made in the country and in J&K in the last ten years of PM Modi led government before casting votes.

Campaigning for BJP can-

didate Jugal Kishore Sharma who is contesting from Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha seat, Khatana said that country has witnessed corruption with large scale scams and scandals in the country during the long tenure of Congress rule.

"In J&K the rule of Congress, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) only delivered bloodshed, loot, corruption, unemployment, militancy, cross

border terrorism," he maintained adding: "The things changed only in the last 10 years when PM Modi took the helm of affairs of the country and set accountability. See where is stone pelting today and where are the protest calendars of separatists?"

The BJP leader also said that now army and other security forces have been given a free hand all the terrorists are dispatched to hell.

"Life of a terrorist has been limited to few months now while the corrupts are facing hard time with Enforcement Directorate and other agencies like CBI etc," Khatana continued.

He asked the public that the present golden period of Modi rule should be extended furthermore and for that all should vote for BJP candidates overwhelmingly so that hands of PM Modi are strengthened for a strong and stable regime in the country once more.

Influenced by the speech of Khatana the gathering raised sloganering like: "Ab Ki Baar, 400 Paar."

Ankur Sharma tours Reasi, addresses back to back public meetings



MP Candidate for Jammu Lok Sabha, Advocate Ankur Sharma during poll campaign at Reasi.

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Ekam Sanatan Party's National President and MP Candidate for Jammu Lok Sabha, Advocate Ankur Sharma, along with his team members, conducted a series of public meetings at Talwara, Pouni, Lehad, General Zorawar Singh Palace Vijaypur and Reasi city. He appealed to vote in his favour from Jammu Lok Sabha by pressing the "Bansuri" button on EVM.

Addressing a gathering at Pouni of Reasi, Mr Sharma demanded that a full fledged hospital having facilities of a District hospital should be con-

structed at Pouni. He lamented the fact that road connectivity to our holy shrine is in a dilapidated condition. He also stressed that the limitations put on residents of Ransoo & Shiv Khori with regard to construction activities should also be lifted and people should be allowed to freely do construction on their proprietary lands.

Pertinent to mention that Advocate Ankur Sharma is contesting Lok Sabha Elections from Jammu Lok Sabha on Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal's ticket and the party symbol is "Bansuri/Flute".

CUJ organizes Special Lecture on Career opportunities in Indian Knowledge System at GDC Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: Central University of Jammu under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, an Extension lecture cum workshop was conducted at Degree College, Samba jointly by Centre of comparative Religion and Civilization (CCRC), Central University of Jammu and Degree College, Samba on the theme Career opportunities in Indian Knowledge System. This workshop was carried out under an outreach programme of CUJ to facilitate freshers who seek to take admission in post graduation courses at Central University of Jammu.

A large number of students and faculty members participated in the work-

shop. Dr. Arvind Rituraj Associate Professor, and Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Assistant Professor, CCRC delivered lectures as a resource person. Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal, Degree College, Samba had inaugurated the workshop and delivered the keynote address. Dr. Shweta, Assistant Professor in



CUJ officials along with faculty and students of GDC Samba.

Political Science department has coordinated the stage. Dr. Joginder Singh, Associate Professor in Dogri language and Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Director, Centre for Comparative Religions and Civilizations, CUJ have jointly coordinated the Programme.

Principal Prof (Dr.)

Twinkle Suri during the programme also initiated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Central University of Jammu and Degree College Samba so that many exchange programmes shall be jointly organised in future for the benefit of the students and faculty members.

DB disposed of PIL regarding to prevent Bonar Nallah from any sort of pollutants/pollution

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi disposed of the Public Interest Litigation filed by Nazir Ahmed Pandit and others regarding pollution of the Bonar Nallah at Chandagee by dumping construction material and other refuse on the embankments in order to prevent Bonar Nallah from any sort of pollutants/pollution.

While disposing the PIL, DB directed Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board that they will undertake necessary steps in accordance with the law to ensure that no environmental damage has occurred, and if any damage has occurred, the relevant authorities will

take appropriate steps/actions as required by law.

When the PIL came-up for hearing, DB observed that the contesting respondents, specifically respondent No. 2 - Chairman & Managing Director; NHPC and respondent No. 7 - General Manager, NHPC, who have been assigned the task of construction of Kishan Ganga, Hydroelectric Project (KGHP), have asserted that the project has been executed with utmost adherence to environmental safeguards and without causing any detrimental impact.

In this regard, they have filed an affidavit on April 14, 2022, emphasizing the comprehensive measures taken by the executing agency to ensure the safety of the surrounding environment. Moreover, it is

highlighted that on August 29, 2018, M/s HCC deposited Rs. 34,29,900/- as compensation for the damages caused to the structures in villages of Mantrigram. It has been emphasized further in the report that environmental laws have been strictly adhered to, as the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Committee on environmental aspect of Kishan Ganga Hydroelectric Project had visited the project sites several times and affirmed that the environmental laws are being complied with.

Under the circumstances and in the absence of any specific denial or material indicating a breach of environmental safeguards, DB do not deem it necessary to continue with this PIL and accordingly, the same is disposed.

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