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India on path...

work towards securing a just and equitable society. Sanatan culture is eternal, inclusive and inspires people to tread the path of humanism. Sanatan culture emphasizes on virtuous living and equality, equanimity, brotherhood and compassion for all, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor recalled the teachings of service of Sanatan Culture and urged people to create a caring society based on equality and justice and contribute in the development journey of the country.

This is a golden opportunity for all of us to work together for all-inclusive development. Every individual must contribute to build progressive and prosperous nation, the Lt Governor further added.

'Citizen Participation essential...

in the progress of the nation.

The Lt Governor called upon the people, especially youth to come forward and generate awareness on duties and responsibilities.

"It is our collective responsibility to ensure the weaker section of society enjoy social justice and equality and strive to our utmost for the realization of the dream of making India a Developed Nation by 2047," the Lt Governor said.

He said India is emerging as a global economic power and it is crucial every citizen discharge its duties and contributes towards nation-building.

The Lt Governor further stressed upon common commitment of nation building and urged the people to work with dedication to make the 21st century, India's century.

DSEJ orders change...

all the Government as well as Private (recognized) Schools up to Higher Secondary Level falling in Summer Zones of Jammu Division shall observe school timing as 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM w.e.f 01-05-2024 to 30-09-2024".

Section 144 imposed...

of five or more persons ahead of polling for 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency (PC) scheduled to be held on April 26, 2024.

The prohibitory order will come in force with effect from 06:00 pm today i.e. 24-04-2024 till the closure of poll on 26-04-2024.

As per the order, there shall be complete ban on holding of public meetings; gathering of five or more persons; use of loudspeakers, besides any other prohibitions as envisaged in ECIs instructions and guidelines shall also be observed during the 48 hours silence period.

However, the order shall not apply to public servants on duty and to bonafide marriage or funeral processions or any other such function.

Also this order shall not apply to the officers authorised for Election Duty by District Election Officer, Jammu or the State Government/Central Government including the Polling Officers/Magistrates/Police Officers/Government Staff and door to door campaigning by political parties.

Failing to comply with this order shall be liable for necessary action under Section 188 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and other relevant provisions of law in force.

This order shall be applicable within the territorial jurisdiction of District Jammu.

67 suspects detained...

of Rs 10 lakh on him, they said.

"A case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Thanamandi. Till now, 67 suspected persons have been detained for questioning post this incident," police said in a statement.

Mohammad Razaq (40) was killed on Monday in the Kunda Top village of the Thanamandi area. Razaq worked in the government's Social Welfare department while his brother Mohammad Tahir Choudhary is a soldier in the Territorial Army, who escaped unhurt.

Police along with security forces deployed in the twin districts of Rajouri-Poonch range are working in close synergy to neutralise this group and dismantle their support ecosystem, they said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain, on Tuesday, visited Rajouri to oversee and reinforce security measures in the border district.

Encounter underway in...

into service for aerial surveillance to prevent the terrorists from fleeing, the officials said. They said a massive search operation is underway and further details are awaited.

DPAP contesting LS...

people. He said: "I am Azad, I stand independent. My departure from the Congress was a result of leadership failure. Any praise from the Prime Minister in Parliament reflects solely on my work and honesty, devoid of affiliations. Our slate of Lok Sabha candidates predominantly comprises young, untainted faces. My vision is to empower the youth, who possess the fervor to champion public causes. I am confident they will echo the public's concerns in Parliament, much as I have."

Azad stressed the importance of steering away from personal attacks and instead concentrating on agendas, visions, and past accomplishments.

He challenged the other political factions and invited them to partake in a constructive competition centered on development achievements.

"It's time to transcend the hollow promises of self-rule and autonomy," he asserted.

"While others have profited from exploiting these sentiments, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering genuine advancements for our constituents," Azad said and reiterated his commitment to bolstering tourism, fostering development, improving infrastructure such as roads, and enhancing educational institutions, emphasizing that these are his primary objectives.

He pledged to prioritize the welfare of the people, ensuring justice for victims of past injustices.

Azad said, "During my tenure as CM, insecurity was a thing of the past, and I vow to restore that peace and security once again."

He further extended an assurance to the people of Kashmir, promising to usher in an era where children can move freely without fear.

Azad appealed the people not to be swayed by the hollow promises of other parties, particularly the NC and PDP, highlighting their history of alliances with the BJP.

He exposed the duplicity of certain parties, who hoisted green flags in Kashmir only to align with the BJP and betray your trust, according to the statement.

"While in parliament, their members remained silent on crucial issues like Article 370, whereas I consistently voiced the concerns of Kashmiris", he said.

Azad underscored the importance of holding accountable those who have failed to deliver on their promises and urged the people to put their faith in leaders who have consistently advocated for their rights and interests.

"Let us not be deceived again," he urged.

Among others present on the occasion were Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, DPAP Lok Sabha Candidate Adv Saleem Parray, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami and others.

Inheritance Tax alien...

development of Jammu & Kashmir said the region has witnessed unprecedented development in various sectors in the past ten years. Several constitutional barriers had been removed by the Modi government to bring J&K to the mainstream of development, he added.

Dr Jitendra highlighted various infrastructure projects completed in the past ten years in his constituency such as Asia's longest road tunnel, world's highest railway bridge, opening of three government funded medical colleges, first industrial biotech park in North India, first homeopathic hospital in North India, two Passport offices in the constituency, dozens of rural roads and bridges increasing last mile connectivity and bringing the remotest parts of the country in the mainstream. In terms of education, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this government brought IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and various central Universities in the U T of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, development under Prime Minister Modi is inclusive in all parts of the country and his leadership has given a change to the mindset of people. Now policies are made by keeping in mind 'Antodaya' that is to reach those who need it the most and not on the basis of caste, creed or religion.

The Minister also highlighted the normalcy in Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. He said that more than two crores tourists visiting Kashmir is the testimony of peace in the Valley. He also highlighted that common people have benefited from the national level schemes such as 'Svachha Bharat Mission and the toilets in each household made under it. LPG cylinders under Ujjawala Scheme empowered women and people got Pucca houses under PM Awas Scheme. All these developments have forced people to change their mindset and vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party who have not been traditional voters of the party but development and pan India popularity of Prime Minister Modi due to adoption of an honest approach in the last ten years, he added.

He also highlighted that people in the illegally occupied part of Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) aspire to be a part of India seeing the development in this region. More and more people are optimistic towards the leadership of Prime Minister Modi seeing the harmonious and uniform development even in the North East part of India, he said.

Speaking on the local self-governance under 73rd and 74th Amendment of the Constitution, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this government operationalized district councils and empowered Panchayats earmarking true sense of democracy in J&K.

The Union Minister for Science & Technology said, there was no dearth of scientific acumen in the country but was lacking enabling milieu by policy makers and leadership. He highlighted that India has taken tremendous leap in progress of Science & Technology specially in the Space Sector. India is the first country to reach the Southern Pole of the Moon. In terms of quantum technology we are not only equal but ahead of many countries. Lavender cultivation has empowered farmers to become entrepreneurs. Anushandhan National Research Foundation will open a large field for research and development in the country, he said.

Dr Jitendra said that the Indian Institute of Astro-physics Bengaluru under his Ministry had played a key role in contributing the Surya-Tilak of Lord Ram in Ayodhya on the occasion of Ram Navmi.

'Cong's loot... Zindagi...

does not speak on behalf of the Congress," Congress general secretary and communication department head Jairam Ramesh said.

"Sensationalising his comments now and tearing them out of context are deliberate and desperate attempts at diverting attention away from Mr. Narendra Modi's malicious and mischievous election campaign; that is anchored only in lies and more lies," he said on X.

Pitroda had spoken about inheritance tax in the US while delving into the issue of redistribution of wealth.

At an election rally in Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur, Modi said the dangerous intentions of the Congress are coming to the fore one by one and now "it says it will impose inheritance tax".

"The advisor of 'shehzada' of the 'shahi parivar', who was also the advisor to the shehzada's father, said that more tax should be imposed on the middle class and those who earn by toiling hard," Modi said, apparently referring to Rahul Gandhi and Pitroda.

The Congress will impose a tax on the assets inherited by people from their parents, he said, claiming that the "panja" (Congress' poll symbol) will snatch the assets from their children.

"Congress ka mantra hei Congress ki loot 'zindagi ke saath bhi, zindagi ke baad bhi' (Congress' mantra is looting people when they are alive and afterwards too)," he said improvising on the iconic tagline of state-run Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

"Till you are alive, the Congress will impose more tax and after your life ends, it will impose the burden of inheritance tax on you. They (Congress) want to snatch your assets and rights of your children," the prime minister alleged. He spoke on similar lines in his rallies in Madhya Pradesh.

Pitroda, however, sought to clear the air saying it is unfortunate that what he said as an individual on inheritance tax in the US is twisted by "godi media" to divert attention from the "lies" Modi is spreading about the Congress manifesto. Modi's comments on Mangal Sutra and gold snatching are simply unreal, he added.

"I mentioned US inheritance tax in the US only as an example in my normal conversation on TV. Can I not mention facts? I said these are the kinds of issues people will have to discuss and debate. This has nothing to do with the policy of any party including Congress," he said on X.

Amid the fierce attack from the BJP, the Congress has been insisting that its manifesto does not talk about "redistribution" and that it favours a "comprehensive socio-economic caste census".

As Pitroda's comments provided fresh fodder to the BJP, its leaders latched onto them to target the principal opposition party ahead of the second phase of Lok Sabha elections on April 26.

CS takes stock...

other concerned from the Department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary prompted the officers of the Department to set for themselves the measurable indicators with timelines against each for the 6 verticals under NEP. He asked for monitoring these on regular intervals for the smooth implementation of the policy here.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

The Chief Secretary also asked for creating ample awareness among the teachers of the Department about the features of this policy applicable to them. He made out that they are the concerned who have to get it implemented on ground. He advised for their capacity building and training to make them well-versed about its components.

Dulloo also asked for gradually reducing the gaps being faced in its implementation so that each of these are ironed out within the stipulated timeframe. He also stressed on creating necessary infrastructure required for schools under this policy.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to enquire about the status of the establishment of ICT and Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across the districts of J&K. He also took note of the development of smart classrooms in schools besides the establishment of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra (VSK).

Regarding the provision of contribution on part of the volunteers to play their role in bettering the services, assets, materials, equipments in the schools, the Chief Secretary called for exploring the possibility of bringing in major players present in the UT to play their part under the CSR.

In his presentation the Secretary, School Education, Piyush Singla elaborated the measures and steps taken by the department in this direction. He gave out that the major principles of the NEP-2020 includes respect for diversity & local context in curriculum, Equity & Inclusion, Community Participation, Use of Technology in teaching and learning.

It also Emphasizes on Conceptual Understanding, Recognising Unique Capabilities, Developing Critical thinking and Creativity and Continuous Review by experts. Its key verticals includes curriculum and pedagogy, quality, teachers and their training, access and equity, governance and management and stress on research and innovation, the Secretary informed.

The Director, SCERT, Parikshat Singh dislosed that the Department has conducted training sessions as envisaged under this policy for capacity building of teachers. He made out that till now 33 tasks had been completed, 52 are in progress under curriculum framework-2020.

Under IMPACT, he gave out that more than 34000 Grade 2nd and 3rd teachers completed their one-month training course through online mode, 78975 Elementary Teachers (100%) completed the course under NISHTHA 1.0, 21926 Secondary and Senior Secondary Teachers (81%) under NISHTHA 2.0 and 40318 Pre-Primary and Primary Teachers (100%) have successfully completed the course under NISHTHA 3.0.

Moreover it was added that in J&K 18 VTPs (Vocational Training Partners) are expanded for imparting skills training in 1315 schools during 2023-24, 1803 Vocational Trainers/Teachers have been engaged. Approximately 126000 students from class 9th to 12th are enrolled in 15 different trades.

It was revealed that 803 vocational labs have been established and made functional for the students and establishment of 532 labs are in process of establishment. Further in 1648 Upper Primary Schools, 74000 students have been provided exposure to the Basic Vocational Skills through local Artisans in 2023, the meeting was informed.

Jammu Parliamentary Constituency...

the polling agents. Also, the voting will continue even after 6:00 pm, if voter's queue is still there in the Poling Station premises to utilize their right to vote.

Every polling station will be provided with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like drinking water, electricity, toilet, ramp, furniture, verandah / shed besides wheel chairs will also be provided to the needy. The ballot unit will also have a list of contesting candidates in brail script. Where ever required, there will be separate ques for senior citizens and specially abled persons facilitating them with early polling. Additionally, there will be a voter help desk, manned by the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO).

There will be 10 polling booths managed by women (also called as pink polling stations), 10 polling booths manned by specially abled persons and 9 by youths. Also, there will be 12 green polling stations in order to spread message about environmental concern. The purpose behind these special polling station is to spread awareness among sections of society like women, specially abled, first time young voters to come forward and exercise their right to vote.

Aimed at to facilitate the voters in identification and increase voter turnout ratio, all voters have been provided with voter information slip with all requisite information like Polling Station name, date and time of poll, serial number of voter in the list, his full

name, QR code but not the photograph of the voter. Hence, the voter Information Slips will not be allowed as proof of the identity of voters. Also, the citizens can view details of the Polling Station, Parliamentary Constituency and get the contact details of the Booth Level Officer, Electoral Registration Officer among other services, through Voter Helpline App (VHA). This mobile app is available on the Google Play store and Apple App Store.

In addition to Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), 12 types of documents will also be allowed to verify a voter and allow him for voting. EPIC card is not mandatory for voting. The requisite documents included Aadhaar Card, MGNREGA Job Card, Pass books with photograph, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of the Ministry of Labour, Driving License, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension document with photograph, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies, Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs and Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, issued by Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry.

The document further read that more than 600 journalists and cameramen of print, electronic and social media platforms have been provided with pass to cover the polling process without compromising secrecy of vote and causing any inconvenience to the democratic exercise.

Besides, the Voter Turnout App will be used to display estimated provisional voter turnout details of each Parliamentary Constituency entered by the RO. The media can also use the same application to capture estimated voter turnout data. Approximate voter turn out data of each phase of the elections will be displayed through this app. There will be two hourly reporting of voting percentage from 9.00 am to the end of poll. The concerned ARO and RO will share the data with media accordingly.

Around 1454 polling stations in phase 2 will have CCTV camera for live broadcasting to control rooms established at District and CEO office. Around 124 polling stations will have two cameras for inside and outside surveillance. Around 2000 vehicles of Polling parties and sector officers will be equipped with GPS system so as to locate the vehicle and monitor movement, including over speeding. Besides, Satellite Phones, Wireless sets and Special Runners have been put in place in around 13 polling stations which fall in communication shadow areas.

In the entire Union Territory, from the date of announcement of the election till date material/cash of around Rs 28.497 crore has been seized by various enforcing departments.

As per the communication, the public campaigning in areas of Jammu Parliamentary Constituency has concluded her today 24th April evening, 48 hours before conduct of the elections. No one, including citizens, journalists, politicians, would be allowed to partake in any election campaign related activity. Holding public meetings, conferences, interviews has been stopped to give the voters a peaceful break from being influenced by campaigns so that they may make a considered decision while voting. Besides, political advertisement in print media can only be done only after prior clearance from Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC). Sale of liquor, even from the licensed shops, has also been banned. Till date, 78 grievances have been received on C-VIGIL app and more than 50 % resolved in time and other are under resolution. For filing Model Code of Conduct Violation cases by the citizens, C-VIGIL app provides time-stamped evidentiary proof of the Model Code of Conduct/Expenditure Violation by empowering every citizen to click a photo or video using his or her Smartphone.

To monitor various election related activities and also check MCC compliance, a Command and Control Room has been established at CEO office, Jammu and similar mini control rooms at every DEO offices which are functioning 24 x 7. Apart from looking for MCC violation, the Control room gets live feed from more than 55% Polling Stations and all vehicles being used for poll parties movement.

Congress dancing to...

with disruptive forces playing in the hands of Pakistan ISI, he added.

Clugh said the BJP was determined to take forward the national idiom of security and integrity on the world platform and make India one of the leading nations in terms of its economic growth.

Mega SVEEP Campaign...

initiative marked one of the largest electoral awareness campaigns in the region.

The events, organised across the district at all district offices, sectoral offices, sub-offices, polling stations, and in all the educational institutions including University of Jammu, Colleges, and schools, were strategically designed to educate, encourage and empower the electorate, focusing especially on new voters, ensuring they understand the importance of their participation in the democratic process.

Some of the notable departments/offices that organised these events included Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Social Welfare Department, which conducted 2654 events, engaging 66,350 participants; Rural Development Department conducted 2450 events, engaging 52,000 participants; Revenue Department held 1600 events, engaging 32,500 participants; Health Department conducted 500 events, engaging 12,500 participants; Education Department conducted 980 events, engaging 84,540 participants.

One of the highlights of the campaign was the administration of the Voters' Pledge by The DEO at District Collector's office complex. It was attended by all district and sectoral officers and officials, who collectively vowed to uphold the democratic values and actively participate in the electoral process. Voters' pledge was also administered at all the departments/offices. Emphasizing the critical role of young electorate, a special event was organized in the General Zoravar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, which witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 2,000 young voters.

Rahul Ranjan Mahiwal, General Observer, Jammu Lok Sabha Constituency, Dr Gajrao Bhupal, Police Observer also participated in the event. The first-time voters were urged to not only vote but also to ask their families and peers to participate actively in the festival of democracy. EPICs were also distributed amongst the attendees. The event concluded with enthralling cultural performance by the celebrity singer Sangram Hanjram who also appealed the voters to vote in large numbers on 26th April, 2024.

The extensive SVEEP campaign utilized a variety of innovative methods to maximize outreach and impact. These included street plays, puppet shows, debates, quizzes, and workshops reaching every corner of the district. Each program was tailor-made to cater to the local audience, ensuring that the message of electoral participation was clear and comprehensible. Additionally, the campaign harnessed the power of modern technology, utilizing social media platforms and other digital means to reach out to the tech-savvy population, with crucial information about voter rights, election dates and process.

The success of the SVEEP initiative in Jammu was a result of collaborative efforts between government officials and employees, NGOs, and civil society groups, which facilitated a wider reach of the campaign. As the district gears up for the upcoming election on April 26, 2024, the DEO Jammu expressed confidence that the overwhelming participation and enthusiasm witnessed during the SVEEP campaign will translate into a significant increase in voter turnout and reaffirm the commitment of the region to vibrant democratic ethos.

Be vigilant against 'mischievous' persons posting photos with DGP on social media: J&K Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has appealed to the public to be vigilant against "mischievous" persons posting their photos with the Director General of Police (DGP) and other officers on social media platforms without permission.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir may take note that such unscrupulous elements should be exposed and no one should fear any harm, the police said in a statement. The police said it has come to the notice that some persons who have photographs with the DGP or other senior officers of police while participating in social and cultural events are posting such photos on their social media accounts without the permission of the officers. "This is not good to post in public domain a photo that was taken in a social or cultural event perhaps as a goodwill gesture without the permission of the person. It is outright criminal and punishable, if the photo is being used and leveraged to intimidate or influence others to extort or part with money or promise governmental benefits by brandishing the photo as a connection to authority," the statement said.

Kishtwar's Cybercrime Investigation Unit recovers online defrauded amount of Rs 56,920

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Cybercrime Investigation Unit of District Police Kishtwar has once again demonstrated its commitment to combating cybercrime by successfully solving a case and recovering online defrauded funds amounting to Rs. 56,920.

District Police Kishtwar, while sharing the details, stated that they received various complaints 1. Rajkumar, son of Bal Krishan, resident of Palmar for a defrauded amount of Rs. 30,920; Fayaz Ahmed, son of Ghulam Haider, resident of Dachhan for a defrauded amount of Rs. 11,000 and Suresh Kumar, son of Budhi Ram, resident of Saroor for a defrauded amount of Rs. 15,000.

These complaints were related to online frauds involving mobile recharge and installation of third-party mobile apps, among others. The Cybercrime Investigation Unit swiftly initiated an investigation and recovered a total amounting to Rs. 56,920.00. The Cybercrime Investigation Unit Kishtwar, led by IC PSI Amrinder Singh along with his team, displayed relentless efforts and advanced technical skills, leading to the successful recovery of the defrauded amount of Rs. 5,30,076. Investigations into the remaining amount are ongoing.