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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
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03 Border villages come alive with enthusiastic voters

09 Birth year controversy surrounds NC candidate Aga Ruhullah's candidature

10 42nd International Kundrorian Arli (Katra) Dangal today

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

Jammu Parliament constituency records over 71 pc voter turnout in second Phase CEO Pole congratulates voters, especially first timers

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second phase of voting for the 18th Lok Sabha Elections concluded peacefully in Jammu Parliamentary Constituency on Friday. The district of Jammu, along with Samba, Reasi, and a part of Rajouri, witnessed a remarkable tentative voter turnout of 71.91 per cent. This high participation reflects voters' unwavering commitment and deep faith in the democratic system, contributing to a flourishing society. The polling took place across 2,416 polling stations, all equipped with necessary facilities. Additionally, 1,364 polling stations were live webcasted. More than 15,000 polling staff has performed poll duty.

Despite scorching hot weather, enthusiastic voters from Jammu, Samba, Reasi, and Rajouri turned out in record numbers to cast their ballots. Long queues formed at polling stations as people eagerly waited for their turn, with youth and first-time voters excitedly participating in this festival of democracy. Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole closely monitored the voting process from the UT level Command and Control Center established at Nirvachan Bhawan, Jammu. Polling began at 7:00 AM and continued until 6:00 PM or the conclusion of polling, whichever was later.

At each polling station, basic amenities such as water, electricity, toilets, ramps, and waiting rooms were provided to ensure smooth and successful elections. Wheelchairs and helpers were also available for voters in need. To promote inclusive voting, 10 polling booths were managed by women (referred to as pink polling stations), 10 by specially abled persons, and 9 by youths. Furthermore, 12 green polling stations were established to raise awareness about environmental concerns.

Chief Electoral Officer congratulated all the first time voters and expressed gratitude towards all the voters for their enthusiastic participation in the polling for the second phase of General Elections. He also complimented the polling personnel engaged in the election process for successful conduct of the second phase of elections in Jammu and Kashmir.



Glimpses of polling at various polling stations for Jammu Parliament constituency in second Phase of Lok Sabha elections.

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| PC No & Name | AC No & Name | Round1 % (Poll Start to 9:00 AM) | Round2 % (Poll Start to 11:00 AM) | Round3 % (Poll Start to 1:00 PM) | Round4 % (Poll Start to 3:00 PM) | Round5 % (Poll Start to 5:00 PM) | Round6 % (Close Of poll) | Latest Updated Poll% |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 5-JAMMU | 56-GULABGARH(ST) | 13.53 | 31.1 | 50.01 | 63.07 | 71.47 | 0 | 71.47 |
| 5-JAMMU | 57-REASI | 14.13 | 33.79 | 52.68 | 64.19 | 71.65 | 0 | 71.65 |
| 5-JAMMU | 58-SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI | 12.71 | 31.25 | 48.61 | 64.77 | 74.65 | 0 | 74.65 |
| 5-JAMMU | 69-RAMGARH(SC) | 1.53 | 28.28 | 45.24 | 58.95 | 69.76 | 0 | 69.76 |
| 5-JAMMU | 70-SAMBA | 8.56 | 29.59 | 44.38 | 61.36 | 69.23 | 0 | 69.23 |
| 5-JAMMU | 71-VIJAYPUR | 12.29 | 25.44 | 41.78 | 56.39 | 75.67 | 0 | 75.67 |
| 5-JAMMU | 72-BISHNAH(SC) | 11.44 | 27.63 | 44.83 | 59.85 | 71.33 | 0 | 71.33 |
| 5-JAMMU | 73-SUCHETGARH(SC) | 5.67 | 25.71 | 41.85 | 55.7 | 63.49 | 0 | 63.49 |
| 5-JAMMU | 74-R.S. PURA-JAMMU SOUTH | 8.17 | 24.46 | 38.69 | 52.37 | 68.11 | 0 | 68.11 |
| 5-JAMMU | 75-BAHU | 10.46 | 21.04 | 37 | 49.31 | 62.34 | 0 | 62.34 |
| 5-JAMMU | 76-JAMMU EAST | 10.26 | 21.72 | 38.4 | 53.33 | 66.11 | 0 | 66.11 |
| 5-JAMMU | 77-NAGROTA | 12.27 | 29.4 | 46.79 | 61.76 | 71.39 | 0 | 71.39 |
| 5-JAMMU | 78-JAMMU WEST | 9.37 | 19.39 | 31.49 | 50.17 | 62.82 | 0 | 62.82 |
| 5-JAMMU | 79-JAMMU NORTH | 10.93 | 23.25 | 36.89 | 51.95 | 67.29 | 0 | 67.29 |
| 5-JAMMU | 80-MARH(SC) | 12.31 | 29.16 | 45.91 | 60.71 | 73 | 0 | 73 |
| 5-JAMMU | 81-AKHNOOR(SC) | 14.24 | 29.75 | 47.67 | 65.78 | 74.03 | 0 | 74.03 |
| 5-JAMMU | 82-CHHAMB | 10.52 | 25.13 | 42.04 | 60.19 | 71.06 | 0 | 71.06 |
| 5-JAMMU | 83-KALAKOTE-SUNDERBANI | 11 | 29.79 | 46.46 | 59.39 | 66.4 | 0 | 66.4 |

102-year old votes in Reasi

JAMMU: A 102-year-old man, battling for jobs for youth to tackle the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir, went out to vote at a polling station in Reasi here, in the second phase of elections on Friday.

"This generation of youth is getting destroyed due to the drug menace. They are idle as there are no jobs. To tackle the drug menace in J&K, the government should provide jobs to the youth. Whichever government comes to power, they should provide jobs to save this young generation," Haji Karamdin, who voted at a polling station in Reasi. Brought to the polling station by his kin, Karamdin was received by the presiding officer with red flowers as a welcome step to strengthen democracy. "I am very happy to vote at this polling station at this age. I have always voted. This journey is continuing even today at the age of 102," Haji said. Haji is one of 666 persons above the age of 100 years who are registered to vote in the Jammu Lok Sabha constituency. Early morning, voters were seen heading for the polling stations before polling began, officials said, adding that long lines of voters have been seen in various polling stations in Jammu city.



Scrutiny of nomination papers completed for Srinagar PC

Candidature of 29 candidates found valid, 10 rejected
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In accordance with the election schedule issued by Election Commission of India (ECI) for the conduct of Lok Sabha Elections-2024, the scrutiny of nomination papers for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat was held on Friday in the office of the Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary constituency (DC Office Complex Srinagar). During the scrutiny of all 39 nomination papers received, 29 nominations were found valid as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. The candidates whose nominations were found valid and accordingly accepted include Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi from Jammu Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Mohammad Ashraf Mir from J&K Apni Party, Waheed ur Rehman Para from Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party, Amir Ahmad Bhat from Democratic Progressive Azad Party, Younis

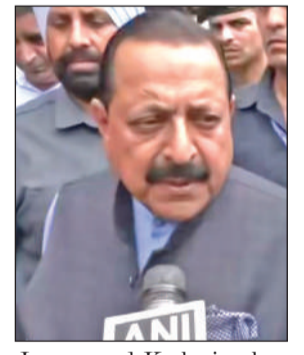
...They (Congress) have said they will make a separate law for minorities. Tell me, should the country function on the basis of Sharia? Should triple talaq be reintroduced? Congress has been heading forward with the agenda of Muslim League," the senior BJP leader alleged. "Rahul baba, neither the people will elect you, nor will triple talaq be reintroduced. I am saying today that we will not allow anyone to touch CAA (Citizenship (Amendment) Act), triple talaq (prohibition act) and (scrapping of) Article 370,"

WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.1°C Min: 20.8°C
Humidity
Max: 46 Min: 44
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 23.0°C Min: 10.5°C
Humidity
Max: 77 Min: 63
Sunset: 19:08 Hours
Sunrise: 05:48 Hours

People tasted 'Real Democracy' under PM Modi: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The people of the country, especially those in Jammu and Kashmir, tasted "real democracy" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Friday. On a day when voting is underway in 88 constituencies spread across 13 states and Union Territories in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections, Singh said the BJP will register a "landslide" victory and form a "stable and strong" government for the third consecutive term. "After Modi took over in 2014, the people got a feel of real democracy, especially in

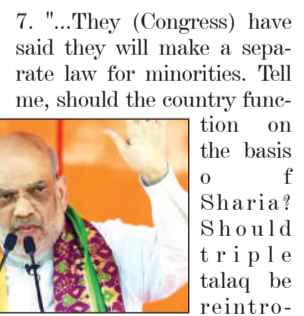


Jammu and Kashmir where the grassroots level democracy was strengthened with the holding of panchayat and urban local bodies elections and implementation of the 72nd and 73rd constitutional amendments after the Congress deprived the people of these benefits," Singh told

Congress has Muslim League's agenda, says it will make separate law for minorities: Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS

BEMETARA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that Congress has said it would make a separate law for minorities, and asked whether the country should "function on the basis of Sharia". Speaking at an election rally in Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh, he also said that those who refused invitation for the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya for their vote bank politics did not have the right to rule the country. Bemetara falls in Durg Lok Sabha constituency which will go to polls on May



possible help from district administration. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildar to process relief cases of damaged houses on war footing under SDRF to provide assistance to victims in the shortest possible time. The DC informed that out of the 50 houses at risk, about 30 have been damaged and affected families have been shifted to safer places besides providing tents, blankets, utensils and other essential items to them. He said experts from the Geological Survey of India will be called to visit at Pernote to ascertain the reasons

Two terrorists killed, 2 Army personnel injured in Nowpora Sopore

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two terrorists were killed while as many Army personnel got injured on Friday as a gunbattle between the militants and security forces continued for the second day in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said. The encounter began on Thursday at Cheek Mohalla Nowpora in the Sopore area of north Kashmir. After the night's lull, a fresh exchange of firing took place on Friday morning, they said. Two terrorists have been killed so far, according to the officials. Two army personnel injured in the gunfight have been shifted to a hospital

50 houses damaged, electricity off after huge land sinking at Pernote area of Ramban

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Several families were forced to remain under open sky after sinking of land in Ramban district. Taking precautionary steps, the District Administration in Ramban has shifted families to safer locations after about 50 houses developed cracks and road get damaged due to sinking of a huge chunk of land at Kakrala Morh, Parnote area of Distt Ramban last evening, officials said. To access the situation, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chowdhary along with other senior officials also visited the spot and met with all victims, beside talked to officials working at the site. The DC was accompanied by ADC, Varunjeet Singh Charak, Tehsildar, Deep Kumar, Tehsildar S. Harvir Singh and various concerned officers and locals. Interacting with the families whose houses were damaged due to sinking of land, the DC assured them every

SC rejects pleas to revive paper ballots, Modi hails verdict

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected pleas for reviving paper ballots and also 100 per cent cross-verification of votes cast on EVMs with a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), holding that suspicions regarding tampering of the voting machines were "unfounded". As the country voted in round two of the seven-phase 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the top court said the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) were "secure" and eliminates booth capturing and bogus voting. Weighing in on the intense-

Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said the plea for return to the ballot paper system was "foible and unsound", noting that the weakness of this system was well known and documented. The two judges gave two separate but concurring ver-

STATE TIMES NEWS

ly debated EVM issue that has long divided political parties, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said the plea for return to the ballot paper system was "foible and unsound", noting that the weakness of this system was well known and documented. The two judges gave two separate but concurring ver-

dicts. "While maintaining a balanced perspective is crucial in evaluating systems or institutions, blindly distrusting any aspect of the system can breed unwarranted scepticism," the court said, adding that democracy is all about striving to build harmony and trust between all institu-



The top court's long anticipated verdict quickly found echo in the pollscape with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying at a rally in Araria in Bihar that it was a "tight slap" on the

The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration remains vigilant, with a dedicated team stationed at the site to monitor the situation closely. It is notable that the land started sinking Thursday evening, creating a panic among the locals while electricity supply to several areas also got affected. "On getting information, a team of Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar accompanied by officers from District Administration along with police, SDRF, and volunteers of Quick Response Team (QRT) rushed to the spot to restore the road connectivity and shift the families in panic to the safer locations," DC said. "Tilak Raj Sharma from District Hospital Ramban is deputed to Pernote today (April 25) along with ambulance (JK19-3309), to facilitate patient transportation," said Deputy Commissioner Ramban. "For inquiries,



behind the sinking of land. The Deputy Commissioner said that restoration of essential services and road connectivity is the priority of District Administration besides ensuring immediate temporary provision of accommodation and ration for affected families. Responding swiftly to the road blockage on Ramban-Gool route at Pernote, the District Administration has opened the Sumber-Digdole link road for light vehicles. This initiative ensures continued road connectivity and essential/emergency services for Sub Division, Gool, with NH-44.

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