

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Kulgam encounter ends...

18 cases, including martyring policeman and innocent civilians and planning of attacks on minorities. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) reportedly announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on Basit Dar in a case of civilian killing and issued a non-bailable warrant against him for killing two non-local labourers in Kulgam in 2021.

NIA attaches 4...

men were involved in illegal supply of weapons, arms, ammunition and narcotics. They were actively engaged in spreading and strengthening militancy in Kashmir, it said.

The four properties attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act include two immovable properties, including a house each belonging to Alam Bhat and Mohammad Yousaf Khawaja in Karnah area of Kupwara, the NIA said.

"Two movable properties, in the form of Tata Sumo vehicles, have also been attached," it added.

According to investigations by the NIA, the houses of Alam Bhat and Mohammad Yousaf Khawaja were used as shelter/warehouse for storage and concealment of arms and ammunition, and also for harbouring terrorists.

The two vehicles were used as a safe mode for transporting arms and ammunition, the probe agency said.

The NIA had registered a case in February 2019 against Hizb-ul-Mujahideen members for the supply of weapons, arms, ammunition and narcotics from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to India.

Pak-based narcotic...

with assistance of Army & accompanied by Magistrate, searched the spot and recovered the contraband substance and cash, on the disclosure of the accused persons. During further investigation, they also revealed that one more person namely Fayaz Ahmad Hajam son of Mohd Rafi Hajam resident of Danisyedon has managed to smuggle contraband from Pakistan. Accordingly, he was detained and during questioning, he also disclosed that he has concealed some contraband, which was subsequently recovered by Police and Magistrate. Furthermore, on the disclosure of Fayaz, some cash was also recovered from his house.

Sofar, Police has recovered contraband weighing 7.800 Kgms (valuing Rs. 50 Crore approximately) and cash worth Rs. 12,63,500/- from this module which has links with Pakistan based handlers. Further investigation is going on in the matter.

Srinagar LS election...

Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag. A total of 26 polling stations have been set up for the migrants, out of which 21 are in Jammu, four in Delhi and one in Udhampur.

"We have set up 21 polling stations in Jammu. In view of the increase in voters, we have to set up some more axillary polling stations. For the Srinagar constituency, we have increased them to 23 polling stations," Ahmed said.

The Election Commission (EC) has arranged pick and drop facility for Kashmiri migrant voters. It will be available from 6 am to 6 pm, he said.

"The transport facility will be available where there is more concentration of migrant voters on polling dates," he said.

Special awareness camps were held in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi to ensure maximum participation of Kashmiri migrants in elections.

"There is an increase in the number of the voters registered for the polls in these elections as compared to the past," he said.

There are two ways for migrant voters to cast their votes.

"First, they can do so by filling up an M-form, which is prior information and can vote in the special polling set up for them," Ahmed said.

The second option is voting through postal ballots for which they have to fill up Form-12C.

The high-stakes contest has attracted a diverse array of candidates from various political parties and independent groups, each vying to capture the imagination of the electorate with their respective agendas and promises.

The prominent candidates are Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi of the National Conference (NC) and Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

J&K Apni Party's Muhammad Ashraf Mir, Democratic Progressive Azad Party's Amir Bhat, J&K National Panthers Party (BHIM) candidate Hakikat Singh, Loktantrik Party's Rubina Akhter and 18 Independents are also in the fray.

Greater Kailash Murder...

The incident occurred on May 1, when Avtar Singh (40), son of Balbir Singh, died after being hit on the head with an iron rod during a scuffle between two groups - both claimed a piece of land in Greater Kailash locality.

On May 4, the court had granted nine days police remand of seven persons, including ex-SSP Sheikh Mehmood, Purushottam Singh alias Nikka, Ravinder Kumar Gupta alias Gola Shah, his son in the Greater Kailash murder case. Two police officials were also suspended in connection with the murder and a departmental inquiry was ordered.

Police remand of...

SHO Police Station Gangyal produced all the accused before the court seeking extension of police remand. The Court after perusal of CD File observed that as investigation is at initial stage, the police remand is extended up to May 13, 2024.

CEO pitches for...

democratic ethos. The CEO, during his extensive visit to various Strong Rooms and Dispatch Centres designated in the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, asked the concerned officials for ensuring seamless arrangements and facilities in place for huge success of the festival of democracy.

He was accompanied by District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Returning Officer (RO) for the Srinagar PC.

During his visit, the CEO assessed the facilities and arrangements in place for surveillance and security of election related material and machinery kept at these centres for the conduct of Lok Sabha Elections.

The CEO inspected Strong Rooms and Dispatch Centres designated for 19-Hazratbal Assembly Segment established at National Institute of Technology and for Assembly Segments of 25-Eidgah and 26-Central Shalteng established at Government Degree College Bemina. He instructed the concerned Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) to ensure all safety measures besides strict adherence to the guidelines of Election Commission of India in letter and spirit for protection of election related material and machinery at these centres.

Pandurang K Pole further asked the AROs to make sure that all necessary measures are put in place to facilitate a smooth and efficient election process. He asked them to make proper arrangements for handling of EVMS, adequate parking and separate entry/exit of the vehicles carrying election material at Strong Rooms cum Collection/Distribution Centres. He also laid emphasis on placing adequate spaces for counters to be placed at Collection/Distribution Centres in order to avoid any cluttering during distribution/collecting of election materials.

While interacting with the AROs and other concerned staff, the Chief Electoral Officer underscored the importance of ensuring that all Strong Rooms cum Collection/Distribution Centres adhere to prescribed standards of Election Commission of India to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

Earlier, the DEO/RO Srinagar briefed the CEO regarding the arrangements made in the district to ensure a smooth electoral process. He informed that the District Election Authority is diligently implementing all necessary measures in compliance with the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

ARO Hazratbal, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Intiyaz ul Aziz, ARO Eidgah, Nasir Mehmood Khan, ARO Central Shalteng other Officers accompanied the CEO during his visit.

Nehru-Gandhi, Abdullah...

Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti will not be allowed to be played here," he said. Hitting out at Abdullah, the BJP leader said, "The Indian government knows how to protect the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Farooq Abdullah sahib, please don't play the role of a PRO of Pakistan."

Chugh added that India's power is its people and India is fully secured under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Judicial Academy organises...

J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy defined the tone and texture of the programme into motion in presence of Justice Tashi Rabstan.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice M. Y. Wani and all the Judges from Jammu wing joined the programme virtually.

The Chief Justice, in his inaugural address, said that the concept of 'Justice' can be regarded as a prodigious view imbibed in our Constitution which owes its genesis to the soil of India. The notion of justice is most commonly associated with an underlying assumption that justice equates to the concept of equal rights and equal opportu-

nity to have access and fair treatment in the legal system.

The Chief Justice delineated that source of judicial power in the law, in reality, is the effective exercise of judicial powers which originate from two sources. He added that the judges have to honour the judicial office which they hold as repositories of public trust.

He emphasised that every action and every word whether spoken or written, must show and reflect correctly that you hold the office of public trust and they should be determined to strive hard continuously to enhance and maintain people's confidence in the judicial system. He also shared some real-life incidents with the trainees and encouraged them to deliver justice efficiently as first-line warriors.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, gave an overview of Pre-appointment Training Programme module prepared by the Academy. He underlined that primary objective of the Induction Course is to build a strong foundation for the grooming of raw talent into as finest Judicial Officers. He highlighted that prime focus of the Induction Course, is on inculcation of Judicial Ethics, Development of Judicial Skills and Aptitude and Sensitization to Social Issues.

Justice Kumar further emphasized that institutional training at J&K Judicial Academy shall train and equip the Judicial Officer to effectively discharge their judicial functions. Its purpose would be to bridge the gap between the level of knowledge and its applicability in the actual discharge of duties, he added. He deliberated that the judicial education and training provides the means for the judiciary as an institution to consolidate, develop and perform this crucial, yet fragile, role in society.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy in his formal welcome address, observed that Judiciary, which is an integral part of the society, plays pivotal role in keeping the society ever dynamic. He added that the judiciary is the repository of confidence of the people and Indian judiciary has enjoyed immense public confidence and has stood the test of time. He said that the common man considers the judiciary as the ultimate guardian of his rights and liberties and therefore, every member of this institution owes a duty to maintain that confidence of the common man in the judiciary.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, presented vote of thanks. She emphasised that pre-appointment Induction Training is a progressive step in the right direction to tune young minds to take over the new assignment with confidence.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Y.P.Bourney, conducted the proceedings of the inaugural programme. He congratulated the young trainees for having come out with flying colours and made to the merit list. He also gave introduction to the Induction Training Course in the first session.

The second session was conducted by Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani, Former Justice, High Court of J&K, who discussed the Judicial Ethics and Code of Conduct for Judicial Officers. The learned resource person highlighted that Judge should be courteous and fair in whatever he says and does. He added that the judges should take care to be punctual, to be dressed decently, to talk discretely and behave in a dignified and graceful manner befitting the high office he holds.

The third session was chaired by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy. He discussed that Judges are not employees and as members of the judiciary, they exercise the sovereign judicial power of the State. He stated that Judges, at whatever level they may be, represent the State and its authority unlike the administrative executive or other members of the services since latter cannot be placed at par with the members of the judiciary, either constitutionally or functionally.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the trainee judges 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 resource persons.

Only I spoke...

speeches and vote records. Azad emphasized his commitment to the cause by recalling his symbolic protest of sitting on the parliament floor, leading to the government's concession to restore statehood.

However, he stressed that the fight is far from over, citing the need to reclaim land and job rights.

He underscored that the upcoming election is not solely about reinstating rights but also about addressing pressing public concerns such as escalating electricity tariffs, unemployment, and various other issues affecting the people.

Azad said: "During my tenure in Parliament, I was the sole advocate for Article 370, 35A and statehood while MPs from NC and PDP remained silent. Few of them even abstained from voting against it. If these elected representatives, chosen by the public, failed to voice their concerns in Parliament, why haven't they acknowledged their shortcomings? Why didn't their parties field the same candidates in the parliamentary elections? Now, what can we expect from new candidates when the most senior leaders, elected last time, failed to deliver in Parliament?"

Meanwhile, Azad expressed disappointment over the long-standing exploitation of the people under the guise of autonomy and self-rule. Despite their previous fervor for these ideals, they now remain conspicuously silent on the matter, instead diverting attention with alternative slogans in an attempt to deceive the populace. The glaring absence of discourse on development is particularly troubling, he added.

Azad said native laborers and contractors find themselves sidelined as lucrative contracts are handed over to outsiders, exacerbating the economic woes of the local workforce. The exorbitant electricity fees further compound the burden of the common folk, rendering basic amenities unaffordable. The absence of accountability only amplifies the frustrations of the people, who increasingly clamor for transparent governance and the restoration of democratic processes through government and assembly elections, he added.

Azad said: "If these regional parties were genuinely concerned about public issues, they would have joined us in protesting against the land eviction order, which saved the livelihoods of thousands dependent on state land. I've pledged to reinstate the Roshni Scheme and enact laws to protect land and jobs through the assembly. Our candidate, Amir Bhatt, embodies youth and integrity. I've opted not to favor my children in MP elections, instead, I've entrusted young leaders like Amir to represent the people and tackle their concerns. I'm confident he will uphold justice and prioritize addressing public issues".

Among others present on the occasion included Taj Mohiuddin, Treasurer; Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson; Arif Maqbool Provincial Secretary, Ghulam Nabi Palpuri, Shafiq Shabnam, Sujada Bashir and others.

LS poll contest...

reservations, he said Congress wants to fight elections by telling lies. Congress says Modi would scrap quotas but he has not done so despite being in power for the last 10 years with full majority, he said.

But, Congress in Telangana robbed the reservations of SC, ST and OBCs by providing four percent reservation to Muslims, he alleged.

Shah said BJP would end Muslim reservation and increase SC, ST and OBC quotas, if they came to power. "Modi ji does what he says. The guarantees of Rahul baba (Gandhi) don't last even till sunset," he said. At the time of Telangana assembly polls, Rahul Gandhi had promised Rs two lakh farm loan waiver, Rs 15,000 every year for farmers, Rs 12,000 annually for agriculture workers, Rs 500 bonus on MSP for paddy farmers, Rs five lakh loan to students without guarantee, 'seooty' to college going girls and international schools in every tehsil, but they have not been implemented, Shah said. Congress withheld the construction of Ram temple for 70 years, but Modi, in just five years, won the case, performed 'bhumi puja' and later participated in the consecration, he said. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said that though people from Rajasthan and Telangana don't have anything to do with Kashmir, the people of Bhongir would be ready to sacrifice their life for the sake of Kashmir, he said.

Highlighting the abolition of Article 370, Shah also said Modi has ended terrorism, Naxalism and made the country secure. He alleged that AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, BRS and Congress are "ABC of appeasement". Modi removed triple talaq, but Congress, BRS and AIMIM want to bring it back, he said, adding that the parties also boycotted the consecration of the Ram temple. He also alleged that Revanth Reddy made Telangana the "ATM" of Congress. Shah highlighted the various development works undertaken by the Modi government in the Bhongir LS constituency, including establishment of AIIMS.

Three notorious criminals...

in multiple criminal cases, posing a serious threat to public peace and tranquility.

Following their repeated engagement in criminal activities, detention orders were issued by the District Magistrate Samba based on detailed dossiers prepared by SSP Samba.

Police teams of Police Station Vijaypur and Police Station Samba successfully executed these warrants, leading to the incarceration of the said accused in District Jail Kathua. This successful operation shows the commitment of Samba Police towards ensuring safety of the public and its resolve to counter criminal activities.



J&K election body issues notice to PDP's Srinagar candidate Waheed Para

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir poll body has asked PDP candidate Waheed Para to explain his statement urging Kashmir's youngsters to consider the general elections as a "referendum" to send New Delhi a message, and asked him refrain from making utterances that may aggravate differences among communities. The notice issued by the Nodal Officer for the Model Code of Conduct on Wednesday gave Para two days to respond.

"...this act of yours has the potential of aggravating the differences among communities and can cause discontentment in the society... you are asked to refrain from issuing such statement forthwith and also to make clear the exact context and message you wanted to convey to the people and also to clarify your position to the District Election Officer, Srinagar, within two days..." it read.

The notice further said that non-compliance with the notice would invite action under the law.

When contacted, Para said he owed allegiance to the Constitution of the country and by using the word "refer-

endum", he wanted to ask people to come out in large numbers to vote so that the dream of democracy could flourish.

The notice further mentioned that as per the MCC guidelines, any activity that may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes, communities or religious or linguistic groups is not be attempted.

The PDP's Srinagar candidate recently appealed to Kashmir's youngsters to consider the general elections as a "referendum" to send to New Delhi a message about their "dissatisfaction" with the Centre's decisions post-August 2019.

Para, who is also the youth wing chief of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), had said there is a need to send a message "that you (New Delhi) should not accept the silence of Kashmir as its acceptance".

"Do not think they (people of Kashmir) are happy with you (on decisions post August 2019). They are not. There are many reasons behind it. The future of the people, especially youngsters, is uncertain," he had added.

First batch of over 600 Hajj pilgrims depart for Saudi Arabia from J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The first batch of over 600 Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir left for Saudi Arabia on Thursday, officials said.

They said 642 pilgrims on board two flights were headed for the 40-day pilgrimage to the Islamic pilgrimage sites in Mecca and Medina.

More than 7,000 pilgrims

from Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled to perform the pilgrimage this year, the officials said.

Emotional scenes were witnessed at the Hajj House in Srinagar as relatives bid adieu to the pilgrims.

Hajj is one of the five fundamental pillars of Islam and the annual pilgrimage is undertaken by Muslims the world over.

Reasi Police organises Thana Diwas



STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: As a part of public outreach programme, "Thana Diwas" an initiative of Government of J&K UT to bridge the gap between Police and Public and also to listen and redress the grievances of common masses organised at P/S Reasi/Pouni, PP Kakryal, Dhansal, PP Shajroo and Malikote by District Police Reasi.

The programme was chaired by Iftkhar Ahmed, Additional Superintendent of Police Reasi at P/S Reasi, Vipan Chandran-JKPS, Addl. SP Katra alongwith SDPO Katra Surinder Singh Baloria at PP Kakryal, Sh. Neeraj Padyar-JKPS, Dy.SP Hqrs. Reasi at P/S Pouni, SDPO Mahore Ajaz Ahmed, JKPS at PP Shajroo, Dy.SP PC Sarh Rajesh Chandan alongwith SHO P/S Arnas at Dhansal and SHO P/S Chassana Insp. Ranjeet Singh Rao chaired the programme at Malikote.

DC Doda chairs District Co-operative Development Committee meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting of the District Co-operative Development Committee to review working of cooperative and Farmers Producer Organizations.

The meeting aimed to address key issues and initiatives related to co-operative development and agricultural practices in the district.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of promoting co-operative development and supporting farmers' producer organizations to enhance agricultural productivity and ensure the welfare of farmers in the region.

Various strategies and action plans were discussed to strengthen co-operative initiatives and empower farmers to improve their livelihoods. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Doda, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Society Doda, Assistant Director F&CS, CPO Doda besides other Officers and representatives from the agricultural sector, and members of the District Co-operative Development Committee and Farmers Producer Organization. The collaborative efforts and discussions during the meeting highlighted the commitment of stakeholders towards fostering sustainable agricultural practices and promoting co-operative development in Doda.