

## Dr Jitendra convenes joint meeting of Phase 5 LS constituencies

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Tuesday convened a joint meeting of the election core groups of seven Lok Sabha constituencies of West Bengal going to poll in Phase-5 on 20th May.

Soon after his arrival here this morning after being assigned the charge of Phase 5 Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal, Dr. Jitendra Singh got in touch with the election teams of all the seven constituencies of Phase-5 which included Howrah, Uluberia, Serampore, Hooghly, Arambagh, Bangaon and Barrackpore.

He said, since he had just landed in Kolkata and not given an advance notice of a meeting, therefore instead of disturbing the Karyakartas during their respective field work, it was decided to conduct



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh convening a joint meeting of the West Bengal Lok Sabha constituencies going to poll in Phase 5, at Kolkata on Tuesday.

an initial introductory meeting from Kolkata in virtual mode.

After a detailed meeting lasting over two hours, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, from tomorrow onwards he will embark on a cycle of constituency-wise meeting of the Election Group of each of the individual constituencies and would try to complete this cycle

within next few days, following which he would along with others senior colleagues start addressing and focussing on specific issues related to each of the constituencies in order to ensure that BJP is able to win all these seven seats.

Out of a total of 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal, in the last election BJP had won

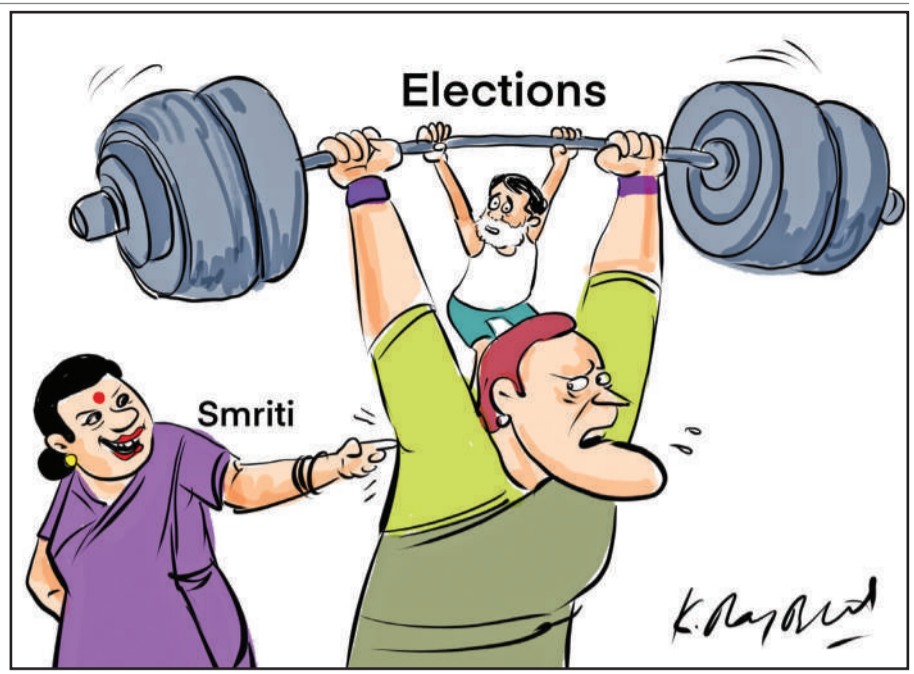
18 while 22 went to TMC and Congress won 2 seats. Among the constituencies going to poll in the Vth Phase, out of seven, BJP had won three namely Hooghly, Barrackpore, and Bangaon, the other four constituencies of Howrah, Uluberia, Serampore and Arambagh were bagged by All India Trinamool Congress (AITC).

Dr. Jitendra said, this time the Party has changed the strategy and the candidates contesting on some of these seats are also new. He said, he was, therefore, hopeful that BJP would successfully win all the seven seats.

Dr. Singh said, compared to earlier elections, the voter today is much more inclined towards the welfare policies and welfare agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in spite of the fact that the

Mamata Banerjee government in the State has deliberately not allowed the benefits of the Modi schemes to percolate to the last man. Notwithstanding this, he said, people are now fed up with the anarchic rule and the culture of violence coupled with corruption sought to be propagated by the TMC over the last several years.

It may be recalled that the BJP High Command has this time strategized the special focus and a concentrated approach on each of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies of West Bengal. The Party has also deputed senior leaders for management of different segments and phases of the election.



## Bhalla lashes out at Administration over negligence leading to casualty of young boy

### Demands immediate construction of two bridges at Lower Gadigarh

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla on Tuesday reached out to Kaushal Kumar's family and joined locals protesting against the authorities and contractors for lingering the long pending project of the bridge wherein a young boy named Kaushal Kumar, son of Late Bhagat Ram hailing from Gadigarh was drowned while crossing a Nallah that flows through the area along the building of the office of SDM Jammu South and whose dead body recovered today evening.

He demanded suitable compensation to the family of deceased as govt's negligence was responsible for his casualty.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that it is unfortunate on part of PM Modi who claims doing wonders in J&K in his every election speech and further claiming to make nation developed by 2047 sadly has badly failed to take care of basic amenities in J&K.

He said that despite organizing series of protests to repair or construct two vital bridges in Lower Gadigarh area which washed away in floods in 2020, nothing was done in this regard notwithstanding locals facing huge inconvenience due to cut off of

area for the movement of locals connecting thousands of villagers with adjoining areas.

Bhalla said poles were placed for locals and even for visitors of the SDM office to cross the Nallah on temporary basis but no progress was made for a long time since the soil was dug out for laying the foundations of the pillars.

Despite protests by local leaders and residents, the neglect remained and before Kaushal Kumar, two girls also fell but were saved timely. It was raining yesterday and Kaushal couldn't be saved because of the dark and fast flowing water. The police authorities have not recovered the dead body as yet.

Bhalla along with JKPC General Secretary, Amrit Bali lashed out at the administration for the negligence of connectivity and safety for years despite the building being an important institution for the entire Tehsil of Jammu South.

He also reminded the SDM of the other hospital building he initiated during his rule which has not been used even now.

He directed the authorities for immediate action over the bridge construction and also



JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla reaching out to Kaushal Kumar's family during a protest.

asked to recover the body as soon as possibly otherwise strict actions will be taken after restoration of their government for delay and neglect that took the life of Kaushal Kumar.

Bhalla said that LG Administration and Union Govt are so callous that despite local villagers from the Gadigarh area took to the streets in protest demanding swift action from the district administration demanding construction of two bridges that were washed away during a flood four years ago.

He said despite numerous assurances from the government and departments concerned, nothing concrete has been done. The construction of the bridge, intended to connect various areas and improve transportation infra-

structure, has been a long-standing demand of the local community.

Bhalla said that the Congress party is very much concerned about the prevailing situation and the safety of the people. He assured the people that he will leave no stone unturned in extending all sort of help to affected people of these areas.

He emphasized that there is need for taking immediate measures for the safety of the people of these areas and demanded immediate construction of embankments and dredging of the Nallahs passing through these localities on war footing to ensure free flow of water. He said the Government and the concerned agencies must be geared up for undertaking these measures.

## SSP Jammu reviews security for Jammu Ring Road to tackle any threat by anti-national elements

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To strengthen the security grid of District Jammu, SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar along with concerned Zonal/Sub-divisional Police & other officers on Tuesday visited newly constructed Ring Road, which has been made functional for public recently to review the security scenario on Ring Road & adjacent areas falling within Police Sub-divisions of RS Pura, Gandhi Nagar and Domana.

The visit began from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Bishnah where Ring Road touches the boundary of neighbouring Samba District. SP headquarters Jammu Irshad H. Rather along with SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna briefed SSP Jammu regarding the emerging security challenges posed by the Ring Road connectivity within the Jammu district and huge rush of traffic and commuters on this road.

He was also shown strategic locations which could be earmarked and further developed to strengthen the security grid



SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar reviewing security for Jammu Ring Road on Tuesday.

on this vital Ring road.

Various aspects like deployment of additional nakas/manpower; establishing static pickets, use of Wi-Fi cameras for CCTV surveillance on this road, ANPR cameras for tracking the vehicles, smart sheds, along with Highway patrol vehicles, were some of the points which were taken into consideration for effectively managing the Highway in the jurisdiction of RS Pura Sub division.

There after SSP Jammu visited portions of Ring Road falling within the Jurisdictions of sub-division Gandhi Nagar and Domana and concerned

SDPOs Kartik Shrotriya and Mudassar Ahmad also briefed him regarding the specific locations where the security apparatus could be strengthened.

SSP Jammu instructs the officers that with the coming up of this new infrastructure there is a need of enhanced vigil and strengthen the security apparatus by way of smartly utilising the resources available and incorporating more and more latest technologies for policing so that there could be a check up on the trouble mongers, Anti social and Anti National elements on this vital road and adjacent areas.

## 3 days' painting exhibition begins at Kala Kendra

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three days' painting exhibition began on Tuesday with its formal inauguration by Principal Secretary, Culture and Tribal Affairs, Suresh Kumar Gupta, at Kala Kendra in presence of distinguished artists and painters.

Organized by the Kala Kendra Society, Jammu, the exhibition is showcasing 60 paintings by five artists namely Arnavi Sharma, Shruti Sharma, Insha Sharma, Pariyanka Choudhary and Reetika Rani, from the Painting department of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Jammu.

The Principal Secretary admired the exhibited artworks, appreciating their rich portrayal of human emotions and experiences. He highlighted various initiatives being made to boost cultural institutions, applauding the relentless efforts of the Kala Kendra Society in this regard.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra Society, stated that the objective of this event was to provide a platform for emerging artists to showcase their works in the professional galleries.

Professor Shohab Inayat Malik, Principal of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, Jammu, commended the high caliber of artwork displayed by IMFA students, showcasing the vibrant art scene



Prpl Secy Culture and Tribal Affairs Suresh Gupta inaugurating Exhibition at Kala Kendra.

## Ujaas Menstrual Health Express travels nationwide to empower communities on Menstrual Health reaches J&K

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the region of Jammu and Kashmir, where discussions around menstrual health are often taboo, Ujaas encountered unique challenges as women and adolescents hesitated to seek information.

Compounded by the area's remoteness and the limited presence of organizations focusing on awareness outreach, these hurdles posed significant barriers.

However, undeterred by these obstacles, Ujaas embarked on a mission to bridge these gaps and effect meaningful change. As an initiative of the Aditya Birla Education Trust, Ujaas marks a significant milestone in its dedication to promoting awareness of menstrual health and hygiene, extending its reach to Jammu and Kashmir.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Advaitesha Birla, the founder of Ujaas, the initiative is committed to fostering positive transformation and empowerment in Jammu. Teaming up with esteemed local NGO partner SR Asia, Ujaas launched the inaugural phase of its engagement, targeting adolescent girls and women through various channels including local schools and communities.

This strategic collaboration initiates a year-long campaign, signifying Ujaas' unwavering commitment to community engagement.

Together, they strive to actively advocate awareness, challenge taboos, and facilitate constructive conversations surrounding menstrual health and hygiene across the region.

During the campaign's first phase, the Ujaas team conducted age-appropriate



Ujaas Menstrual Health Express reaches J&K on Tuesday.

awareness sessions on menstrual health and hygiene management, while also distributing sanitary napkins. As part of this outreach, Ujaas will also collect critical data about the diverse cultures, practices, and beliefs surrounding menstruation in the state.

This data will undergo thorough analysis to identify practical interventions and solutions, addressing the myths and stigmas associated with menstruation.

The 'Ujaas Menstrual Health Express' is a unique initiative, the first of its kind in India, designed to cover 25 states and 107 cities, spanning over 27,000 kilometres travelled by road.

At the heart of the initiative lies the specially designed Menstrual Health Express Van that will navigate diverse regions and communities, engaging with local NGOs to gain insights into the rich tapestry of cultures, practices, and beliefs surrounding menstruation.

In collaboration with local NGOs, the initiative aims to distribute over 250,000 menstrual pads nationwide as part of its comprehensive campaign -

reflecting Ujaas' unwavering commitment to addressing menstrual health challenges, empowering women, and creating a positive impact within communities.

Speaking about the initiative, Advaitesha Birla, Founder of Ujaas emphasized, "The Ujaas Menstrual Health Express is not just a van; it is a symbol of change, breaking barriers, and fostering a society where menstrual health is a right, not a taboo. We are very excited to run this initiative in Jammu and Kashmir where the interventions are much needed. We have reached out to schools and local communities driving awareness for menstrual health and hygiene through informative age-appropriate awareness workshops delivered by trained professionals."

Ujaas invites the media, community leaders, and the public to join hands in supporting this transformative initiative and contribute towards building a society that is more informed, aware, and supportive of menstrual health and hygiene.

## Parties like NC, PDP have lost their legitimacy to seek votes from people: Bukhari

### Urges people to show political families their appropriate place by rejecting them through power of vote



President of Apni Party, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari with party workers at a public meeting.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The President of the Apni Party, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Tuesday, said that parties such as the NC and PDP lack the legitimacy to seek votes from the people in the ongoing parliamentary polls.

He said that the performance of their sitting MPs has been shamefully poor over the past five years, especially regarding the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. He urged people to relegate these parties to their rightful status by rejecting them through the power of their votes.

He was addressing Apni Party's public rally at Gouripora Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

Addressing the occasion, Bukhari said, "In the last parliamentary elections in 2019, parties like NC and PDP sought votes from the people, promising that they would protect Article 370 and 35A in the parliament. People trusted their commitment and elected NC's candidates in all three seats in the Valley. The PDP also had its two members in the Rajya Sabha. However, when the testing time came on August 5, 2019, these so-called public representatives

chose to remain silent on the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. At the very least, they should have resigned in protest against the abrogation of these articles. Furthermore, throughout their five-year tenure, these MPs have neither spoken a word in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, nor have they done anything to bring economic dividends to the people. Even after these failures, these parties shamelessly come to the people yet again to seek votes. They no longer have the legitimacy to seek votes from the people."

Talking about the deceptions by the PDP, the Apni Party president said, "In the assembly elections in 2014, the PDP sought votes from people by promising to keep the BJP out of power in Jammu and Kashmir. People trusted the leadership of this party and gave it the mandate. However, to their utter shock, after winning the election, the PDP joined hands with the same BJP to form a coalition government here. Two years later, when this government killed more than two hundred people, mostly children, and blinded dozens of boys and girls, the leader of the PDP justified these

killings by heartlessly remarking, 'Kiya ye bachay chocolates aur doodh lene niklay thay' (Had these children come out of their homes to fetch chocolates and milk for themselves). These ruthless words will always haunt people in Kashmir. I wonder how these leaders get the courage to shamelessly approach people seeking votes, yet again."

He urged people to reject these parties through the power of their votes. He said, "You must show these deceptive parties their right place by denying your vote to them."

Extending gratitude to the people for attending the rally, Bukhari said, "I want to assure you that unlike traditional political parties, our politics is rooted in truthfulness and integrity. We need your support so that we can challenge these political families and deceptive parties that have been harming the interests of the people for years and decades. This is a battle between truth and falsehood, and I humbly request your unwavering support in our mission to defeat the politicians who rely on falsehoods and deceptions."

Reiterating his demand for allowing religious organ-

isation to perform their religious and social duties, Bukhari said, "Apni Party is committed to ensuring that religious organizations in Jammu and Kashmir are allowed to fulfill their social and religious obligations without any hindrance. We strongly believe that these organizations play a crucial role in eliminating societal evils. For instance, the ongoing drug menace poses a significant challenge to our society, and religious organizations have a pivotal role to play in combating this menace."

Termining the day when Article 370 and 35A were abrogated as a black day, the President of the Apni Party said, "I have no doubt that Jammu and Kashmir is destined to be an integral part of the country, and it will always remain so. But having said that, I strongly believe that August 5, 2019, was undoubtedly a black day for the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir. In fact, New Delhi has repeatedly hurt the sentiments of the people of J&K. Yet, I believe that the solution to our problems will also come from Delhi, not from somewhere else."

He added, "We are grappling with so many problems and issues, which can only be