

03 Religion based reservation against spirit of Constitution: Dr Jitendra

03 3.40 lakh kanal land out of 3.48 lakh kanal was given free as Agri Land under Roshni Scheme

11 Police raids continue at drugs hot-spots; several addicts, peddlers detained

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

Aiyar, Farooq scare us on Pak atom bomb; Rahul silently enjoys: Shah

‘PoK belongs to India, we will take it’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAEBARELI/PRATAPGARH/GONDA (UP): Referring to Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's remarks on Pakistan having the atom bomb, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Rahul Gandhi can be scared of Pakistan's atom bomb but the BJP is not.

"Pakistan-occupied Kashmir belongs to India and "we will take it", he said while addressing a series of election rallies in Uttar Pradesh.

"Mani Shankar Aiyar and Farooq Abdullah scare us and Rahul baba silently enjoys it. Rahul baba, clear your stand before the public," he said.

"When I stood up (in Parliament) to abrogate Article 370, Rahul baba said do not scrap it.. he said rivers of blood will flow in Kashmir.



Rahul Baba, five years have passed and nobody has the courage even to throw a stone, let alone flow rivers of blood."

Intensifying his attack on the Congress, the senior BJP leader said, "From 2004 to 2014, the Congress government functioned with the support of SP and BSP. There would be bomb explosions virtually every day."

"Then Modi ji came (to power). Pakistan being a habitual (offender) carried

out attacks in Pulwama and Uri. But, they had forgotten that this time, it was not the government of Manmohan Singh. It was of Modi. Within 10 days, surgical strikes and airstrikes were carried out," he said.

The Union Home Minister launched a blistering attack on the Gandhi family in its Raebareli bastion, accusing Sonia Gandhi of "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on minorities".

He alleged the Congress

was talking of bringing back triple talaq if it comes to power at the Centre. Shah asked the opposition party and its Raebareli candidate Rahul Gandhi to make their stand clear on triple talaq and on a Uniform Civil Code.

The Union home minister spoke at poll meetings in Raebareli, Pratapgarh and Gonda.

Accusing the opposition of appeasement politics, Shah claimed Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his wife Dimple Yadav were invited to the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya but they did not attend.

"These people did not go because they were afraid of their vote bank. But the BJP is not afraid of vote bank. Not just Ram temple, (PM Narendra) Modi ji also

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army opens fire on suspected Pakistani drone in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Army troops opened fire on a suspected Pakistani drone near the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

However, the drone returned to the Pakistan side after briefly hovering over the Indian territory late Saturday night, they said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Police dismisses political parties' charge of harassment of workers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday dismissed charges levelled by political parties about the harassment of their workers as "without basis".

"Statements and speculations of political parties suggesting that police has been harassing their party workers in different ways at the behest of the other is

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Multi-layered security blankets Srinagar LS constituency; polling today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A foolproof security arrangement has been put in place for the polling in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency on Monday, a senior police officer said.

In the first parliamentary polls since the abrogation of Article 370, nearly 17.48 lakh people in Kashmir's Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency will decide the fate of the 24 candidates trying their luck in the seat.

The voter turnout in the redrawn Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, following the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, will be keenly watched as most of the areas under the seat had previously witnessed low polling percentages due to boycott calls given by the separatists.

"We have made foolproof security arrangements as per the guidelines of the Election

Election parties dispatched for polling stations across Srinagar PC



Polling officials leave for their respective polling stations after receiving EVMs and other election material in Srinagar on Sunday.

SRINAGAR: The election parties were dispatched on Sunday for the polling stations established for the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency under the overall supervision of Chief Election Office, Pandurang K Pole.

The polling parties, along with EVMS, were sent to all the 18 centres set up across 5 districts of Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Budgam, and Ganderbal

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Commission in Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency where polling will be held tomorrow," Inspector General of

Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi said. He said arrangements have been made

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Arms, ammunition recovered from terrorist hideout in Reasi



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Sunday unearthed a terrorist hideout in a forest area in Reasi district, recovering a huge cache of arms and

ammunition, including nine Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and three pistols, officials said. The hideout was unearthed by

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Phase-four: Voting today for 96 Lok Sabha seats in 10 states/UT; 175 assembly seats in AP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AMRAVATI/LUCKNOW: The electoral fate of several prominent candidates like Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Union minister Giriraj Singh, TMC's firebrand leader Mohua Moitra and AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi will be decided on Monday when polling will be held in 96 Lok Sabha constituencies across 10 states and Union Territories in the fourth phase of the general elections.

Voting will simultaneously be held in all 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh,

which is witnessing a triangular contest involving ruling YSRC, the Congress-led INDIA bloc and the NDA, comprising the BJP, Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP and Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSP).

As many as 28 legislative assembly seats of Odisha are also going to polls in this phase.

A total of 1,717 candidates are in the fray in the Lok Sabha seats and more than 19 lakh polling officials have been deployed at 1.92 lakh polling stations for the over 17.70 crore eligible voters, including 8.73 women, in this

round of the seven-phase polls.

Among the keenly watched contests are those involving former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav (Kannauj, UP) and Union ministers Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar), Nityanand Rai (Ujjain, Bihar) and Raosaheb Danve (Jalna, Maharashtra).

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and former cricketer Yusuf Pathan of TMC (both from Baharampur, WB), BJP's Pankaja Munde (Beed, Maharashtra), AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi

(Hyderabad, Telangana) and Andhra Pradesh Congress president YS Sharmila (Kadapa) are among the prominent candidates.

Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra Teni, whose son is an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, is eyeing a hat-trick from Kheri (UP), while TMC's Mahua Moitra, who was expelled from Lok Sabha in the wake of cash-for-query allegations, is seeking re-election from Krishnanagar in West Bengal.

Film star-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha is

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army Chief visits command hospital in Udhampur



COAS General Manoj Pandey enquiring well being of a patient at Udhampur command hospital.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Manoj Pandey visited the 650-bed command hospital in Udhampur-based northern

command and interacted with patients and paramedics, an Army official said on Sunday. The Army chief virtually inaugurated

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Won't waste time on statehood to J&K as it is already promised: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Sunday said restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is not an issue for his party in the Lok Sabha polls, asserting that it will get the statehood anyway in view of commitment by the prime minister and the Union home minister.

Abdullah also said the results of the Lok Sabha polls will have an impact on the upcoming assembly elections in the Union territory.

"Statehood is not an issue for us. Our battle is not for statehood, we will get the statehood anyway. Why should we waste people's time on an issue that the PM and the home minister is committed to?" Abdullah told reporters in Kupwara district where he was campaigning.

The former chief minister is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla which will vote on May 20.

"If this government

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

With neighbour like China, we have to learn to compete: Jaishankar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Boosting India's domestic manufacturing and the overall economy will provide much more resources in its foreign policy toolkit to expand the country's influence globally and compete with China on the economic front, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Jaishankar said India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been focusing on enhancing domestic manufacturing in the last 10 years as there was a neglect of the



sector before 2014 that created many problems for the country.

He also suggested that lack of focus in the past on the manufacturing sector is linked to the upward trajectory in India-China trade notwithstanding New Delhi's approach that normalisation

of ties with Beijing is dependent on resolution of the eastern Ladakh border row.

"We need to be confident. I am clear that international politics, international relations are competitive. I have a neighbour like China. I have to learn to compete," he said.

"By my complaining, China is not going to stop doing things. If I do not build up my strength at home, our foreign policy will be as good as our domestic policy," Jaishankar said. "It is a function of our domestic

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

MHA directs CAPFs to adopt BSF's 'beehives' on border fence' model across country

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union home ministry has directed all central paramilitary and allied forces to replicate a 'beehives on border fence' beekeeping model initiated by a BSF unit in West Bengal to boost employment opportunities for the locals and create a goodwill with them for strengthening security.

Official sources told PTI that the decision was made during a meeting on "scientific beekeeping and honey mission" that was chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla at his office at North Block here in April.

The model devised and implemented by the 32nd battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF) deployed to guard the India-

Bangladesh international border in West Bengal's Nadia district was "lauded" during the meeting and a direction was issued to all the central armed police forces (CAPFs) to adopt it in their respective areas of responsibility, a senior CAPF officer said.

The other border guarding forces, such as the Sashastra Seema Bal (Nepal and Bhutan borders) and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (China LAC), CAPFs like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and other forces like Assam Rifles, the National Security Guard (NSG) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) do not have fences to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Corruption common character of INDIA bloc parties: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HOWRAH (WB): Alleging that corruption was the common character of INDIA bloc parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the TMC of having made it a "full-time business".

Addressing an election rally at Sankrail in Howrah, he alleged the job of TMC leaders is to create unrest in the state.

"Whether the Congress, Left or any other party of the INDIA bloc, all of them have made corruption their common character," Modi alleged.

While many INDIA bloc parties indulge in corruption secretly, TMC does it openly, he claimed.

"TMC has made corrup-



tion a full-time business," he said.

Modi said people of the state have spent their earnings buying lottery tickets and losing them in the "lottery scam".

He claimed that TMC's agenda is the welfare of illegal immigrants and not that of the people of West Bengal.



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing during road show at Kulgam.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Stressing the importance of solidarity among the Gujjar, Kashmiri and Pahari communities, Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday criticized National Conference and PDP for exacerbating divisions within these groups, despite their shared heritage and religion.

Addressing the people, after road shows despite rain, in Kulgam districts, Azad condemned the divisive tactics aimed at segregating Kashmiris along ethnic lines,

noting the parallels with historical divisions between Muslims and Hindus.

He urged the electorate to support a party committed to fostering unity and rejecting

DPAP will ensure justice to all, defeat those sowing discord: Azad

justice for all communities.

He said: 'I'm deeply pained to witness how they initially divided people based on religion, sowing discord between Hindus and Muslims. And now, they're further fragmenting communities of the same faith. They've become the biggest adversaries of these people. If they truly cared, they would unite all communities and prioritize the well-being of everyone, regardless of caste or creed. During my tenure as Chief Minister, I never discriminated against anyone be it Hindus or Muslims,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

BJP Govt has roadmap to meet 'aspirations, expectations' of Ladakh's population: Rijju

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The BJP-led government at the Centre has a roadmap to meet the "aspirations and expectations" of the people of Ladakh, Union Minister Kiren Rijju said on Sunday.

He also sought support of the electorate for BJP candidate Tashi Gyalson for continuation of dialogue to address issues such as grant of Sixth Schedule to the region.

Rijju was speaking to reporters in Zaskar after addressing an election rally. He also held separate meetings with local groups, including religious leaders.

He became the first Union minister to drive on the Nimmu-Padum-Darch Road and could be seen in a viral video pushing his vehicle



along with others after it briefly got stuck due to a technical snag.

"I have come here with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee that all your demands will be met in the next five years. We have prepared a roadmap and we are promise-bound to fulfil all your demands. This is my message to the people of Ladakh," the Union

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 31.7°C Min: 19.3°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 35

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 18.2°C Min: 12.6°C

Humidity
Max: 87 Min: 73

Sunset : 19:19 Hours
Sunrise : 05:33 Hours