

Neelha
Multispeciality Institute
Dr. Shitiz Gupta
M.S., M.Ch.(Plastic Surgery)
Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surgeon
Dr. Shikha Dhawan
M.S.(Obs. & Gynae.), D.N.B.(Obs. & Gynae.)
Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
24-A, Shastrri Nagar
(at Dr. Bharat Bhushan Gupta's Clinic), Jammu.
9419114877

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PoK 'was, is and will remain ours': Rajnath Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BALLIA (UP): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir "was, is and will remain ours" while also hitting out at the opposition parties for raking up the China issue.

Accusing the opposition parties of spreading confusion on the China issue, he said, "India has not lost anything. We will not let India lose anything. Talks are ongoing... we are confident that a solution will be found."

Addressing an election rally in Ballia's Sikandarpur in support of the BJP's Salempur candidate Ravindra Kushwaha, Singh also asserted, "Pakistan Occupied Kashmir was ours, is ours and will remain ours."

He claimed that after four phases of elections, political analysts not only in India but across the world believe



that the BJP is going to form the government by winning more than 400 seats.

Singh also launched an attack on INDIA bloc partners AAP, Samajwadi Party and the Congress and committed to implementing a uniform civil code.

"We will implement a uniform civil code, that is our commitment. We do not work against any religion. Everyone living in the country -- be it Hindus, Muslims, Christians or Jews -- are our

brothers. I am talking about a uniform civil code because it is one of the policy-making principles of the Constitution," he said.

Attacking the opposition parties over claims that Modi is seeking 400 seats in the Lok Sabha so that the BJP can change the Constitution, Singh recalled the Emergency period under the Congress rule and said, "You strangled democracy and are blaming us. No one can end democracy."

The defence minister also

accused the Samajwadi Party and the Congress of making whatever allegations that come to their minds against the BJP.

"The bicycle's (the Samajwadi Party election symbol) chain has come off," he said.

He also compared the Congress with dinosaurs and said the grand old party will become extinct.

"The condition of the Congress has become so weak that if after 10 years you say 'Congress', people will ask 'who Congress?' Just as dinosaurs became extinct from the face of the earth, the Congress will become extinct from India," Singh said. He also hit out at AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the alleged assault of party MP Swati Malwal at his residence.

Salempur goes to the polls in the last phase of the elections on June 1.

SIA Jammu files supplementary charge-sheet against 2 terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: State Investigation Agency (SIA), Jammu on Friday filed supplementary charge-sheet against two terrorists involved in number of terror acts and activities in Kandi Budhal area of District Rajouri.

According to an official statement, a significant case of terror acts was registered in Police Station Mahore where two terrorists were arrested with huge quantity of automatic arms and its ammunition including other war like stores from Budhal area by the Police and security forces.

During sustained interrogation more recoveries of sticky grenades, hand grenades, IEDs were recovered on their disclosures.

Since, this case was important in nature and involvement of more terrorist associates was anticipated, it was transferred to SIA Jammu. The SIA put strenuous efforts and as a result

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Over 25k displaced KPs across India eligible to vote for Baramulla constituency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: More than 25,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandit voters from across the country are eligible to exercise their franchise in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Baramulla constituency on May 20.

The constituency is gearing up for an intense electoral showdown for the fifth phase of elections with nearly 17.32 lakh voters, of which 8.59 lakh are women, to decide the fate of 23 candidates in the fray.

The main contest is between Sajad Lone of the People's Conference and Omar Abdullah of the National Conference.

"A total of 25,821 Kashmiri migrants are registered as voters from Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency on May 20. Of these, 12,747 are male voters and 13,074 are

female voters," Assistant Returning Officer (ARO), Migrants, Riaz Ahmed told PTI.

Twenty-six polling stations have been set up for the migrants, of which 21 are in Jammu, four in Delhi, and one in Udhampur, he said.

The Election Commission has arranged a pick-and-drop facility for the 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 day," he said.

There are two ways for the 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 vot-

ing 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.

The contest became interesting with the entry of Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) of Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid.

The two-time legislator is contesting from Thar jail in Delhi.

The People's Democratic Party candidate Fayaz Mir, who is a former Rajya Sabha member, is also in the fray.

The Lok Sabha seat spread over 18 assembly constituencies in four districts of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora and Budgam, has over 17.32 lakh voters who will vote across 2,103 polling stations.

ACB books 4 people including 2 revenue officials in Rajouri land transfer scam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday charged four people, including two revenue officials, under the Prevention of Corruption Act for the illegal transfer of a piece of land in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

A case was registered against Balwant Singh, former Tehsildar of Rajouri and Mohd Rafiq, former Patwari of Rehtal, along with private beneficiaries Kanwal Singh and Masood Anwar, ACB officials said.

The case emerged from an ACB investigation following a written complaint alleging

that in 2010, Balwant Singh conspired with Kanwal Singh to illegally declare him as the sole Tenant-at-will of a property, excluding other legal heirs and successors of the late landowner, Brij Lal, they said.

The verification process revealed that Singh and Rafiq unlawfully transferred land to the beneficiaries by making unauthorized entries in official records, they added.

The ACB said that these actions, driven by criminal conspiracy and abuse of official positions, provided undue benefits to the

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Amit Shah wraps up visit to Kashmir, returns to Delhi

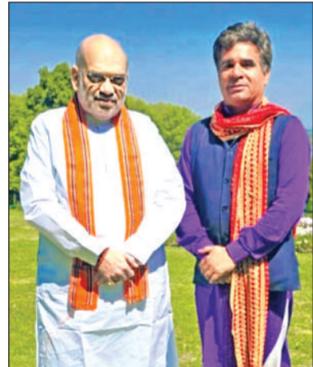
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday wrapped up his brief visit to Kashmir Valley during which he interacted with several delegations, including those from the BJP and local Sikhs, officials said.

Shah, who arrived here on Thursday evening, left for New Delhi on Friday morning, they said.

Though his visit in the midst of Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir led to speculation of his meetings with some Kashmir-based mainstream political leaders, there was no official word on the minister's engagements before he left the Valley.

While Baramulla goes to the polls on May 20, voting for the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency is scheduled for



Home Minister Amit Shah along with BJP J&K Chief Ravinder Raina.

May 25 after it was deferred from its earlier schedule of May 7 due to bad weather.

Sunil Sharma, General Secretary of the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit, said on Thursday that the home minister's visit to Kashmir is not political.

"I think the home minister is coming here to review the measures from the security point of view to increase the turnout and create an atmosphere of peace. There is no political activity, but the BJP workers will meet him and discuss the party's organisational matters," Sharma said.

Immediately after his arrival in the city here on Thursday, Shah interacted with several delegations, including BJP leaders of Jammu and Kashmir. A Pahari delegation

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123 consumer cases settled in Special Lok Adalat across UT of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority and with the approval of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as under the guidance of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, a Special Lok Adalat was organized throughout the UT of J&K on Friday, with special emphasis on amicable settlement of consumer cases

pending disposal in different consumer forums within the UT of J&K.

As per the data received from District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kupwara, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Udhampur, a total of 227 cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 123 cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of Rs.29,38,081 giving a huge relief to the litigants. District Ganderbal once again emerged as front runner with amicable resolution of 104 cases out

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Indian firms should use 'national security filter' in business dealings with China: Jaishankar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Indian businesses will have to use a "national security filter" in their dealing with China and they should focus more on sourcing from domestic manufacturers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday, amid the lingering eastern Ladakh border row.

In an interactive session at an event hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Jaishankar said Indian firms should look at the national security sensitivities in their business propositions with China, but noted that it does not mean that nothing can be sourced from the neighbouring country.

"Where China is concerned, we will still encourage people in this country -- manufacture in India, source in India, procure from India," Jaishankar said, responding to a question. "We have not completely and utterly prohibited people working

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Expectations from armed forces to contribute to India growth story shall rise in future: Army Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: With India's interests growing across expanding strategic horizons, it is essential for the armed forces to be "alive to our responsibility", not only in the security domain, but also towards contributing to the nation's growth, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande said on Friday.

In his address at the second Lt Gen P S Bhagat Memorial Lecture hosted at Manekshaw Centre here, he described the legendary officer, who was a recipient of

the Victoria Cross, as a visionary who was ahead of his times.



"In the book -- 'The Shield and The Sword' -- written after the 1965 war, Gen Bhagat had crystal-gazed on the appreciated Chinese strategy against India. He had also written a paper; 'The

Chinese Mind: What will China do next? His prognosis of our northern adversary, seven decades ago, stands vindicated today," the Army chief said.

Lt Gen Bhagat was the first Indian officer to have won the coveted Victoria Cross during the World War II. Bhagat was born in October 1918, and was decorated with the Victoria Cross by the then Viceroy of India Lord Linlithgow in 1941. The Victoria Cross, instituted

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ED names Kejriwal, AAP as accused in fresh excise policy charge-sheet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate Friday filed a fresh charge sheet in the Delhi excise policy case, naming Arvind Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as accused, the first time that a sitting chief minister and a political party face money laundering charges.

Official sources said the prosecution complaint, spanning about 200 pages, has been filed before a special court here. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja is likely to take up the chargesheet for cognisance in coming

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Kashmir wants to get rid of era of loot, separatism given by Abdullahs, Muftis: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: BJP General Secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also party incharge for Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday called upon people to push Abdullahs and Muftis to oblivion in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a series of public meetings in Poonch district, Chugh said the politics of separation and pro-Pakistan played by them needed to be dumped decisively.

"All these years J&K has been a victim of vicious forces who kept the people in



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh addressing public meeting in Poonch district on Friday.

dark for their cheap and anti-national politics", Chugh said, adding that Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis filled their coffers but kept people

of Kashmir in poverty and depravity. Chugh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has scripted a new chapter

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Rohit Shetty, DG NCC call on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Bollywood Film-maker Rohit Shetty on Friday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, Director General, National Cadet Corps called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Maj Gen Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva, ADG, NCC Directorate, J&K and Ladakh.

The DG NCC discussed with the Lt Governor various important matters pertaining to the expansion of National Cadet Corps in the UT of J&K.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor presented a citation to NCC Directorate for its excellent performance and well-organized training in



LG Manoj Sinha meeting Bollywood Film-maker Rohit Shetty at Srinagar on Friday.

Jammu Kashmir: Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr Piyush Singla, Secretary, School Education and Subash Chander Chhibber, Director, Youth, Services and Sports were also present during the meeting.

Dr Sachidananda Mohanty, Executive Director, AIIMS

Awantipora, Kashmir called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Later, a joint delegation of All Sikh Minority Employees Association and All Employees Joint Association Kashmir (M) led by its President Jagmeet Kour Bali called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Subsequently, several delegations including Advocates from Kashmir headed by

Advocate Shafiq Ahmad Shah; civil society members and residents from Baramulla and Kokernag; Tribal Community members from Bandipora and Baramulla also called on the Lt Governor.

Representatives of J&K General Line Teachers Forum headed by its President Anwar Hussain Wani also called

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'Maoist' manifesto of Cong will make India bankrupt if implemented: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday described the Congress manifesto for the Lok Sabha polls as

"Maoist", which he warned will put a break on the country's economic growth and lead it to bankruptcy if implemented.

The BJP's star campaigner claimed that the Congress, if elected to power at the Centre, will take away gold from temples and 'mangalsutra' (gold chains) of women, and also impose a 50 per cent inheritance tax.

Addressing his final rally in Maharashtra for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls at Mumbai's Shivaji Park in support of

Shiv Sena-BJP candidates, Modi lashed out at the Congress over its election manifesto.

"The Congress is fighting a



battle for its survival and can go to any extent (to save itself). Its Maoist manifesto is eyeing gold from temples and 'mangalsutra' of women. The Maoist manifesto will put a break on economic growth and lead the country to bankruptcy," he said.

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 41.3°C Min: 24.3°C
Humidity
Max: 36 Min: 20
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.7°C Min: 13.0°C
Humidity
Max: 55 Min: 34
Sunset : 19:23 Hours
Sunrise : 05:30 Hours