

Modi Govt created enabling milieu for Kashmir's huge voter turnout: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Saturday that the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had created an enabling milieu for huge voter turnout in the Kashmir Valley, which was virtually unimaginable till a few years ago.

In a detailed interview to ANI in the background of the crucial polling in the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, as far as the Kashmir Valley is concerned, the polling has been almost as much or higher than the national average. Last time also in Phase-5 it was 59 to 60 percent average at the national level while Baramulla Constituency alone had witnessed over 59 percent of polling. Similarly, today also in the Anantnag-Rajouri



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in an interview with ANI at New Delhi on Saturday.

Constituency the polling is set to be equal or higher than the national average, he said.

This, said Dr Jitendra Singh, is a vindication of the fact that in the last 2 to 3 decades, the Kashmir Valley was constrained to go through elections of a very limited scale and the

voter turnout was also limited. As a result of this, MPs and MLAs as well as the governments would get elected with a dismal voter turnout but this suited the dynastic political parties of Kashmir to continue their family rule, he said.

The credit goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

said Dr Jitendra Singh, for having made the people of Kashmir realise the true sense of democracy which is being reflected in the ongoing Lok Sabha General Elections happening for the first time after the abrogation of Article-370.

Dr Jitendra said, this drastic change has happened because of the personal outreach and honest approach demonstrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has successfully convinced the people of Kashmir that already 2 to 3 generations have been wasted and it is time to move on with the rest of India. He said, the people of Jammu & Kashmir are highly aspirational and highly forward looking, as a result of which they can now visualise the opportunities made available by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and do not wish to miss the bus.

Responding to a question regarding the protest launched by the PDP leaders as the polling began this morning in Anantnag, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the protest is not convincing and perhaps it is an indirect expression of weak-

ness. He said, when the democratic forces have come out so openly and vibrantly in Kashmir Valley, whosoever is in a denial mode will have issues within himself or herself.

In response to another question about some of Arvind Kejriwal's statements being lauded by the Pakistani leaders, Dr Jitendra Singh said, time and again concerns have been expressed by the BJP leaders and its spokespersons about Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and the other India Block leaders making statements which are music to the ear of the enemy countries. He said in their haste and misguided enthusiasm to find fault with Prime Minister Modi and his government, some of these leaders go to the extent of hurting the interest of Mother India. This, he said, should be an eye opener for the people of India because on one hand they have BJP whose motto is nation first, party second and self last whereas on the other hand it is the India Block parties for whom it is self first, party next and nation last.



Advisory cautions against swimming in open water bodies

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In view of the prevailing weather conditions and forecast of sustained high temperatures till 29th of May 2024 by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Srinagar Station, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Saturday issued an advisory asking masses especially children to desist from swimming in open water bodies.

As per the advisory, the general public especially children have been advised to refrain from bathing swimming in open water bodies including River Jhelum and its Tributaries, Dal Lake without Expert Guidance and supervision and Protective Equipment including but not restrict-

ed to life saving jackets to prevent drowning incidents. Heads of Educational Institutions have an added responsibility to ensure the safety of the students, who are at a higher risk of facing such mishaps.

Further, local Shikara Wallas are advised to keep a close vigil in the Dal Lake to avoid any mishap.

All Tehsildars (Responsible Officers) shall activate and sensitize the already constituted Zonal Committees in their respective jurisdictions and spread awareness among the vulnerable population to prevent any untoward incident. They shall also maintain a close liaison with their Police Counterparts.

Additional 200 MW Power to bring major respite for people of Jammu in scorching Summer: MD JPDCL

Power restoration completed in record time after wind storm

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MD JPDCL, Vikas Kundal on Saturday said that in a major decision, JPDCL has completed the process of buying additional 200 MW power for Jammu and this will bring huge respite for the people of Jammu during the ongoing scorching summer season. He said that the authorities are making best efforts to ensure smooth power for the general public. The current quota of power for Jammu province was 1200 MW while with the frantic efforts of the LG administration the quota has been increased to 1400 MW.

MD JPDCL also informed that major wind-storm had hit the Jammu province on 24th May, Friday resulting in major losses at various places including damage of poles and wires due to falling of



trees on the trunk lines of JPDCL. However, the staff of PDD including all the engineers worked tirelessly and ensured that 100% power restoration was completed in record time. According to the Official statement of the JPDCL, the restoration works were completed late night on Friday.

It was also made clear in the statement that there shall be no curtailment in the smart metered areas of Jammu city and with the additional power availability the curtailment in rural areas shall also decrease.

MD JPDCL appealed to the people of Jammu to use power judiciously and not indulge in any kind of power theft so that Power can be made available to all the consumers. He added that JPDCL shall take strict action against those who are indulging in power theft and such practices are causing massive loss to the public exchequer and honest consumers suffer due to illegal practices by the some miscreants.

Regarding the hours of power supply to consumers, the spokesperson said that smart metering was under implementation in mission mode and the focus was on ensuring uninterrupted and regular power supply in areas saturated with smart meters, while also curbing losses.

In areas without smart metering, the department is sustaining the same number of power supply hours as maintained during the previous year. The Managing Director JPDCL urged the people to use energy efficient cooling devices and discontinuing the use of obsolete and environmentally unfriendly electric systems.

Academic Leadership Engagement Programme "Abhyuthanam" begins at IIT Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second cohort of the Academic Leadership Engagement Programme, "Abhyuthanam," is set to unfold at IIT Jammu from May 25 to 29, 2024.

Crafted meticulously, Abhyuthanam aims to empower visionary leaders heading Centrally Funded Institutes (CFIs) across India.

This cohort is designed to equip leaders with essential skills, insights, and networks necessary to navigate the complex landscape of academic leadership effectively.

Through immersive discussions, hands-on workshops, and collaborative networking opportunities, participants will delve into key themes such as Self-Sustenance, Indian Knowledge System, Student Wellness, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Mindfulness while Taking Decisions, Policy Matters (NEP), Self-Management as a Leader, Emerging Digital World, Future Indian Academics, and Global Presence.



Dignitaries posing for a photograph on opening day of Abhyuthanam at IIT Jammu.

Leaders will explore strategies for financial resilience, resource optimization, and fostering self-sufficiency within institutions, ensuring sustainable growth and development. They will integrate traditional knowledge with modern practices to foster holistic educational experiences and cultural appreciation.

To nurture holistic student development and well-being, academic leaders will learn how to empower students academically, socially, and personally.

They will cultivate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, driving institutional growth, societal impact, and economic development.

Mindfulness practices will enhance decision-making processes, promoting clarity, focus, and alignment with organizational goals. Leaders will navigate educational policy complexities, aligning institutional strategies with evolving education landscapes effectively. Harnessing digital technologies, leaders will innovate, collaborate, and lead in a rapidly evolving digital landscape, ensuring institutional competitiveness and relevance. They will cultivate self-awareness, resilience, and effective time management skills, fostering personal growth and leadership excellence.

Global perspectives, collabo-

ration, and research excellence will prepare leaders for the future of academia, positioning institutions as global leaders.

Through Abhyuthanam, leaders will gain practical tools, strategies, and insights to address evolving challenges and opportunities in academic leadership, driving positive change within their institutions and the broader educational landscape.

The inauguration of Cohort 2 commenced with an introductory speech by Director, IIT Jammu, Prof. Manoj S Gaur, outlining the program's objectives and expected outcomes. Today's sessions were conducted by experts including Dr.

Sharad K Saraf on 'Indian Knowledge System' and Prof. Pradeep Kumar Ramancharla on 'Financial Self-Sustenance of Academic Institutions'.

In first session, panel discussion on the topic 'Changing context of higher education: Global orientation while rooted in Indian culture' moderated by Prof. Laxmidhar Behera, Director IIT Mandi. Panelists include Prof. Rama Shanker Verma, Director - MNIT Allahabad, Prof. Venkappayya Desai, Director - IIT Dharwad, and Prof. Mani Kant Paswan, Director - Sant Longowal Institute of Engg and Tech, Punjab.

In second session, panel discussion on the topic 'Resource generation and mobilization strategies: VGF, HEFA, PPP and beyond' moderated by Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, VC - Central University Kashmir. Panelists include Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Director - B. R. Ambedkar NIT, Jalandhar; Prof. S N Singh, Director - IIT Gwalior; and Prof. Arun Mahan Sherry, Director - IIT Lucknow.

Artist KK Gandhi to participate in 11-day event in Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

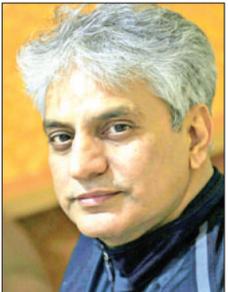
JAMMU: Contemporary Land Art group Sa Ladakh Pvt. Ltd., an internationally renowned organization promoting thematic and contemporary art globally, has specially honored KK Gandhi, a globally known artist from Jammu and Kashmir (UT).

Gandhi has been invited to participate in an 11-day event from June 1st to June 11th, 2024, in Ladakh, situated at an altitude of 3600 meters above sea level.

The event will feature various activities and seminars focused on climatic optimism, aiming to spark meaningful dialogues and actions toward a sustainable future.

Titled 'Immersive Land Art,' this year's edition showcases an enriched lineup of site-specific art installations, sculptures, and paintings, meticulously crafted to highlight the environment and the grandeur of the local topography and culture.

Besides KK Gandhi, many prominent and



acclaimed artists from across the country will be participating at this remarkable height, contributing thought-provoking ideas and experiences to uplift and promote dignity and environmental protection through their respective artworks.

The event is supported and sponsored by the European Union National Institute for Culture 2024.

KK Gandhi will participate in the first segment of the project from June 1st to June 6th, 2024, where he will address and conduct a student workshop. He is also thrilled to stage a live painting demonstration during this period.

CS compliments civil administration, police for smooth conduct of LS elections

Congratulates people for high voter turn-out

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, J&K Atal Dulloo on Saturday complimented both the civil administration and police for working tirelessly and ensuring peaceful and smooth conduct of parliamentary elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

On the culmination of the 6th & last phase of Lok Sabha election in J&K, Chief Secretary hailed the high voter turn-out during all the phases and said that huge participation and high voting percentage have demonstrated faith of people in the electoral process.

He said that adequate arrangements had been made to ensure general public do not face difficulties in casting their vote and the Media has amply highlighted the enthusiasm among the electorate and truly the election in J&K has looked

more like a festival. On this occasion, Dulloo remarked that since the elections are the spirit of democracy, therefore, every person who played his/her role in its successful conduct, deserved appreciation. He commended the role of every person, who had been part of the polling machinery for being part of this largest democratic exercise in the world. He appreciated the role of officials on election duty who worked with utmost dedication and devotion for making this whole process impartial, free and fair for the electorate. He called these public servants the foot soldiers of the democracy who should take pride in their accomplishments.

Chief Secretary thanked people for coming out in large numbers to cast their vote. He

acknowledged the role of Principal Secretary Home; DG Police, Divisional Commissioners Kashmir/Jammu, ADGPs, all Deputy Commissioners, DIGs, SSPs and other civil & police officers for making fool proof arrangements, thereby providing people a peaceful environment to exercise their vote freely as per their choice.

Dulloo also complimented Election Commission of India especially Chief Electoral Officer J&K, who had been pivotal in making best of the arrangements for conduct of polling in all the districts over five phases. He expressed satisfaction that adequate security arrangements had been made which ensured peace and harmony during elections and no untoward incident was reported.

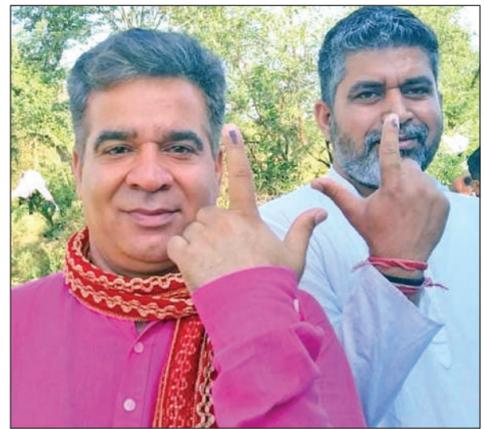
Raina thanks people of J&K for voting massively to strengthen democracy

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Ravinder Raina, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP thanked the people of Jammu & Kashmir for voting massively to strengthen the democracy in Jammu & Kashmir. He said this, while he voted in his home constituency in Rajouri district.

Raina said that Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed a massive turnout in this election especially referring to the Kashmir region and expressed hope that the people in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat will follow suit and vote in a bumper way.

"This is the festival of democracy and we are thankful to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for turning up in record-breaking numbers to exercise their franchise for the election of new government," Raina told reporters after casting his vote



J&K BJP President, Ravinder Raina after casting vote.

at Lamberi east polling station in Rajouri. Congratulating the people for strengthening democracy, Raina said, "I am confident that the people in Jammu and Kashmir and rest of the

country will vote in the interest of the nation and ensure a third term for Narendra Modi who has worked for the benefit of all sections of the society, especially the poor."

J-K: Grieving for loved ones, survivors of terror attacks come out to vote

STATE TIMES NEWS

DHANGRI (RAJOURI, J-K): "My sons accompanied me last time (2019) to vote. Today they are not with me," says 51-year-old Bala, the pain of losing her two children in a terrorist attack last year writ large on her face. Bala's sons - Deepak Sharma (24) and Prince Sharma (21) - were among seven civilians killed when terrorists struck their village on January 1, 2023, opening indiscriminate fire on the members of the minority community before fleeing the scene. They also left behind an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) which went off the next morning. Like Bala, many survivors of the terrorist attack queued up on Saturday in this remote Dhangri village to vote in the election to the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat which saw a record 53 per cent turnout, the highest in 40 years. "I am deeply pained as my sons are not with me," Bala,

a widow, told PTI after casting her vote at the polling station set up at the local government higher secondary school. She said she left behind her pain to exercise the fundamental right as a tribute to the victims of the terror attack. Besides the two brothers, Pritam Lal (57) and his son Shishu Pal Sharma (32) and army ex-serviceman Satish Kumar (45) lost their lives in the firing, while two children Samiksha Sharma (13) and her cousin Vihaan Sharma (4) died in the IED explosion. A couple of Pakistani terrorists including the mastermind of the attack were killed in two separate encounters with security forces in May and November, last year in Rajouri hills. Two terror associates were also arrested by National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the attack. "Voting is everyone's fundamental duty and every citizen of the country should fulfil it," Bala said.

DC inspects work on High Security Prison Dambra in Basohli

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, accompanied by senior officers from the Civil and Police Department, on Saturday conducted a site visit of High Security Prison coming up at Village Dambra in the Basohli sub-division.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a first-hand appraisal of the ongoing construction work across various segments of the prison.

Dr. Minhas directed the Executing Agency to ensure that all construction segments are completed by December



DC Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas conducting site visit of High Security Prison at Village Dambra.

2024. He emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality standards, adhering strictly to the specified guidelines, and ruled out any possibility of compromising on quality.

Among others, ASP Kathua

Paramjeet Singh, ADC Kathua Ranjit Singh, ADC Billawar Anil Thakur, SE PWD Kathua D.K. Nayar, Superintendent District Jail Koushal Kumar, and SDM Hiranagar were present on the occasion.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Industrial Area SIDCO Ghatti, Channi, Marheen, Paharpur, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Haria-Chack, Nanan Barnoti, and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 26 from 9 am to 9.30 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Bhalla, Dandi Bhaiderwah, Dalian and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 26 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Smailpur, Rahya, Gurah, Utterbehni, Mandal, Industrial area Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 26 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Prabble, Humble and Mangote will remain affected on May 27 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bharth, Darshan, Ghat and Bhabore will remain affected on May 29 from 8 am to 12 noon.