PoJK, a Nehruvian- Congress blunder: Rana

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Vikramjit Singh reviews status of industrial units in J&K

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

JKSC to hold series of camps, competitions

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

No family member of terrorists, stone pelters will get Govt job in J&K: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: Sending a tough message, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that no family member of any terrorist nor close relatives of stone pelters will get government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

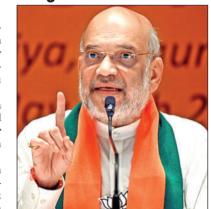
Shah also said that the Narendra Modi government has not only targeted terrorists but also eliminated the terror ecosystem, resulting in a drastic fall in terror incidents in the country.

"In Kashmir, we have taken a decision that if someone joins a terrorist organisation, their family members will not get any government job," he told PTI in an interview over the weekend.

Similarly, Shah said, if someone indulges in stone pelting, his family members will also not get a government

He said some human rights activists went to the Supreme Court against the decision but, at the end, the government

The Home Minister, however, said the government will make an exception in case someone from a family comes forward and informs the authorities that his or her close relative has joined a ter-



Such families will be given relief, he

Earlier, funeral processions used to be taken out in Kashmir after a terrorist was killed, Shah said.

"We have stopped this trend. We have ensured that the terrorist is buried with all religious formalities but in an isolated place," he said.

The Home Minister said when a terrorist is surrounded by the security forces, he is first given a chance to sur-

"We call family members like his moth-

appeal to the terrorist to surrender. If he (the terrorist) does not listen, he dies," Shah said.

The Home Minister said terror incidents have gone down significantly in Jammu and Kashmir as the government has not only targeted the terrorists but also eliminated the terror ecosystem.

the NIA (National "Through Investigation Agency), we have taken strong action against terror funding and ended it. We have taken a very tough stand on terror funding," he said.

In case of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), Shah said the government has imposed a ban on publication and spread of the terrorist ideology by it.

Muslim radical group PFI, founded in Kerala, was banned under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) by the Centre in September 2022 over its alleged links with terror

In the case of Amritpal Singh, an alleged pro-Khalistani separatist, "we have put him in jail under the NSA (National Security Act)", he said.

Singh, the chief of radical Sikh sepa-

IT Deptt tightens noose on overchargers, cancels licenses of 6 CSCs

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Tightening noose around the Common Services Centres (CSCs) for overcharging, the inspection teams of Information Department Technology have recommended cancellation of 6 licenses in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir during surprise

inspection teams, under ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi congratulates Anantnag-Rajouri voters for record turnout STATE TIMES NEWS

check of the same. The

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered "special congratulations" to voters of the Anantnag-Rajouri Sabha constituency on Monday for a record turnout, saying it is a "vibrant testament to their democratic spirit".

The constituency, which went to the polls on May 25 in the sixth phase of the

J&K records highest voter turnout in 35 yrs: CEC

'Assembly polls in J&K to be held soon'

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Monday said the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir this time was the highest in a Lok Sabha election in the last 35 years with the Kashmir Valley witnessing a "massive" 30 percentage point jump in poll participation compared to 2019.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said this achievement sits on a 25 per cent increase in the number of contesting candidates since 2019.

"This active participation is a huge positive for the assembly elections to be held soon so that the democratic process continues to thrive in the Union Territory," he said.

The poll panel also said the combined voter turnout at the polling stations for the entire Union Territory with five Lok Sabha seats was 58.46 per cent.

On Saturday, CEC Kumar percentage witnessed a 30told PTI Videos that encour-

aged by the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir in this Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission will "very soon" initiate the process of conducting the assembly polls in the Union Territory. The voter turnout of 50.86

per cent from the three parliamentary constituencies in the Kashmir Valley echoes the faith of the people in the democratic process, the Election Commission said, adding the poll participation point jump from the 2019 general elections where it was 19.16 per cent.

The three seats in the Valley -- Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri -recorded a voter turnout of 38.49 per cent, 59.1 per cent and 54.84 per cent, respectively, all of which have been the highest in the last three decades.

The other two seats in the Territory Union Udhampur and Jammu

Three injured in mortar shell blast near Purmandal

Suriya Bibi (58), all local

residents, sustained splin-

ter injuries in the blast

and were shifted to the

College and Hospital in

and one of the women is

After receiving informa-

tion about the blast, police

and forensic experts

immediately rushed to the

scene and recovered a

piece of the rusted mortar

In the past, mortar

The condition of Singh

Government

serious, they said.

shell, they said.

Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/JAMMU: Three persons, including two women, were injured when a rusted mortar shell exploded in a field due to a fire in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

The condition of two of the injured is stated to be serious, they said.

The explosion occurred when some farmers were burning crop residue in the field in Khara Madhana village near Purmandal at around 8.15 pm, the officials said.

They said Rameet Singh (66), Simro Devi (76) and

J&K Govt constitutes

panel to implement WHO

Tobacco Control Policy

breaking initiative, the

Kashmir has ordered the

constitution of an empow-

ered committee for the

implementation of Article

Organization Framework

Control (WHO FCTC) in

underscores the govern-

ment's commitment to pro-

advancing tobacco control

The National Tobacco

Control Cell, Kashmir, lauds

this initiative and acknowl-

edges the pivotal role played

by Dr. Syed Abid Rashid

Shah, Secretary Health and

Medical Education, in bringing this policy to fruition. Dr.

Shah's unwavering efforts

and dedication have been

instrumental in this land-

mark development, demon-

strating his commitment to

safeguarding the health of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

the people of Jammu

the Union Territory.

This significant

measures in the region.

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: In a path-

Terror funding case: NIA Court frames charges against Ex-Minister Babu Singh, others

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge NIA Jammu Jatinder Singh Jamwal on Monday framed charges against Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh Ex-Minister, Mohd Shareef Shah alias Shariefuddin alias Shareef Bukhari, Fayaz Ahmead Bhat; Mubashir Mushtaq; Mohd. Rafiq; Aijaz Sayam; Farooq Ahmad Mohd Ahmad Naikoo; Arshad; alias Syed Ashiq Elahi alias Umar alias Moulvi Sahab in terror funding case.

According to the challan shells have been recovered from fields in the area, that instant case was regisaccording to the officials. tered on December 31, 2022

Medical

in Police-Station: Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, vide Its FIR No 73/2022, and subsequently the investigation of the case was transferred to the State Investigation Agency, Jammu, SIA for short hereafter, for carrying out an in-depth investigation. Besides the initial Chargesheet filed by Investigation Agency on September 24, 2022, four ${\it supplementary\ charge-sheets}$ have been filed so far in the case, with first supplementary Charge-sheet being filed on December 5, 2022; second

fourth on February 20, 2024. Having said that, it Is further pertinent to notice that in Its fourth supplementary Charge-sheet. filed February 20, 2024, Investigation Agency has arraigned as many as six more persons as accused in the case, taking the total number of accused persons in the case to 18. That apart, proceedings under Section 299 of Cr. P.C., were initiated against three out of the twelve accused persons (arraigned as accused in the initial and firstly supplemenon December 19, 2022; third tary Charge-sheets), namely on February 17, 2023 and Mohd Hussain Khateeb alias

Khateeb (A-3); Kifayat Rizvi (A-5); & Tariq Ahmad alias Tariq Murtaza alias Murtaza alias Muntazir Tariq (A-12), as they are presently settled in, and operating from, Pak Occupied Kashmir and, therefore, their presence could not be secured for the purpose of investigation and trial. Taking that into account coupled with the fact that arguments with respect to the six newly added accused persons, i.e. A-13 to A-18, are yet to commence and the arguments with respect to framing of charges against the accused

announced amid heat wave in Jammu STATE TIMES NEWS notches above normal during JAMMU: As Jammu is grapthis part of the season.

New power curtailment schedule

pling with extreme hot weather conditions for the past fortnight, the authorities on Monday announced a four-hour load-shedding in the urban areas and eighthour load-shedding in the rural areas on a daily basis.

The Jammu Power Development Corporation Ltd (JPDCL) said the power curtailment schedule will be in three shifts - morning, afternoon and evening across the division.

The new schedule was issued on a day when Jammu city recorded the hottest day ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 at 42.8 degrees Celsius, 3.7

Jammu, where the night

temperature settled at 24.7 degrees Celsius, continues to be the hottest recorded place in the division, an official of the meteorological depart-

He predicted continuation of the isolated heat wave in the region till the month end. Katra, the base camp for

the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, also recorded a high of 39 degrees Celsius and a low of 24.4 degrees Celsius, which is 3.4 and 2.8 notches above normal, respectively, the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

KPDCL official arrested for demanding, accepting bribe

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Jammu and

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested Mohammed Shafi Bhat, Senior Assistant Cashier in the office of 5.3 of the World Health Executive Engineer, Power Kashmir Convention on Tobacco Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Sub Transmission Division, Sopore red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10000 from comtecting public health and plainant for release of his

> According to an official statement, $_{
> m the}$ Corruption Bureau received

security deposit.

a complaint against Mohd Bhat Assistant/Cashier, alleging therein that the official demand a bribe of Rs 10,000 for release of security amount to the tune of Rs

It was alleged by the complainant in his complaint that he is running a Firm namely M/S Print Plus at Hazratbal Srinagar and in the year 2021 he had supplied stationary items and log books to the office of Executive Engineer, KPDCL, Sopore for which the Bill payment against the supplied items was made by

the Department but the security deposit amount of Rs 15,560 is pending with the KPDCL, Sopore.

He further alleged that he approached for the release of security amount many a times but one cashier Mohd. Shafi kept delaying same on one pretext or other and finally demanded Rs 10000 as bribe from him for doing so and that he has collected proof against the said cashier regarding demand of bribe. Under these circumstances he approached ACB with written complaint, request-

23 TTP terrorists, 7 soldiers killed in clashes in Khyber

ISLAMABAD: At least 23 terrorists affiliated with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were killed and seven Pakistani soldiers died in three separate clashes since Sunday in the troubled north-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the

army said on Monday.

According to a statement issued by the media wing of the Pakistan Army, the fighting took place on Sunday and Monday as the security forces increased pressure on the rebels affiliated with the TTP, which has been alleged-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Govt, IIM-J sign MoU for establishment of CITaG **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Institute of Management (IIM). Jammu Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), J&K, on Monday signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of Centre for Innovation Transformation in

Governance (CITaG) in the The MoU was signed in

presence of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, at Civil Secretariat here. Director IIM Jammu,

Professor BS Sahay and



CS Atal Dulloo along with Director IIM Jammu, Professor BS Sahay and Secretary PD&MD, Aijaz Asad during signing of MoU at Civil Secretariat on Monday.

Secretary PD&MD, Aijaz Asad signed the MoU. Terming the step as signifi-Chief Secretary

observed that it will provide a

suitable platform and great opportunity for all in terms of accelerating development of Jammu and Kashmir.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Money laundering: Kejriwal seeks extension of

Commitments made by political parties in election manifestos not 'corrupt practice': SC

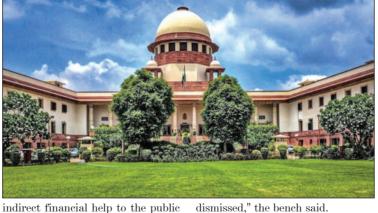
STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said that commitments made by political parties in their election manifestos will not amount to "corrupt practice" under the election

A bench of Justices Surva Kant and K V Viswanathan made the observation while dismissing a plea by a voter hailing from the Chamrajpet Assembly Constituency challenging the election of a candidate belonging to the Congress.

The plea alleged that commitments by the Congress in its election manifesto for the 2023 Karnataka assembly polls were direct and indirect financial help to the public which amounted to corrupt electoral practice.

"The contention of the learned counsel that the commitments by a political party in its manifesto, which eventually lead to direct or



indirect financial help to the public at large, will also amount to corrupt practice by a candidate of that party, is too far-fetched and cannot be accepted.

rately. The appeals are, accordingly,

"In any case, in the facts and circumstances of these cases, we need Ahmed Khan. not to go into such question elabo-

The petitioner, Shashanka J Sreedhara, a voter from the Chamrajpet Assembly constituency, had filed an election petition against the winning candidate B Z Zameer

He submitted that the five guarantees made by the Indian National Congress (INC) party in its mani-

festo amounts to corrupt practice. The Karnataka High Court had held that a party's announcement about the policies they plan to put into place cannot be regarded as corrupt behaviour under Section 123 of the Representation of Peoples Act.

"The five guarantees of the Indian National Congress have to be considered as social welfare policies. Whether they are financially viable or not is altogether a different aspect. "It is for the other parties to show as to how implementation of the said schemes amounts to bankruptcy of the State Treasury and it can only lead to mal governance of the State. It is possible that they can be termed as wrong policies under the given facts and circumstances of the case, but cannot be termed as corrupt practices," the high court had said.

interim bail on medical grounds STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has sought extension of his interim bail by seven days from the Supreme Court to undergo a host of medical tests, including a PET-CT scan in view of his "sudden and unexplained weight loss, coupled with high ketone levels", which are indicatives of kidney, serious cardiac ailments and even cancer.

Kejriwal, in his plea filed on May 26, said he will surrender back to jail on June 9, instead of June 2, the scheduled date for his return to

"The appellant prays for an extension of his interim bail by a week, during which the Appellant can get the prescribed tests done and obtain results of the same. The

Appellant will get all these tests done in the working week from June 3 (Monday) to June 7 (Friday) and then surrender on the weekend. i.e. June 9," the fresh plea, according to the sources,

The top court had on Mav 10 granted 21-day interim bail to the chief minister, who was arrested in a money laundering case linked to the excise policy 'scam', to enable him to campaign for the Lok Sabha polls.

It had directed that Kejriwal shall surrender on June 2, a day after the last phase of the seven-phase poll

The fresh plea, which is likely to be taken up in the coming days by a vacation bench, said during the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER Max: 35 Max: 32.2°C Min: 29 Max: 54

Sunset: 19:30 Hours

Sunrise: 05:25 Hours