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Taking legal advice...**

he alleged. NDA will not only create a record in Lok Sabha polls, but will also form government in Andhra Pradesh. He said the NDA will come to power in all states where Assembly elections are happening.

Stressing the need for a "double engine" government in Andhra Pradesh, Modi said the YSRCP dispensation promised to set up three capitals in the state, but couldn't even establish one.

Mocking the YSRCP regime, he said, "They can only do corruption management, it's not up to YSRCP to do financial management."

Describing the Polavaram project as the "lifeline" of Andhra Pradesh, he said the union government has allotted Rs 15,000 crore for the project, but the state government failed to take it forward, leaving farmers in the lurch.

In the name of development, zero work has happened in the state, while corruption stood at 100 percent, he alleged.

Referring to YSRCP's promise of phased prohibition of liquor in the state, Modi said, "Today the state government itself is involved in liquor dealings and corruption." In a rally at Anakapalli, Modi said this is the first polls being fought on the trust of "Viksit AP and Viksit Bharat" and today India became the fifth largest economy in the world and the first to land on the moon's southern pole.

**NC suffers jolt...**

Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) which has put up Haji Haneefa Jan as its candidate. Jan, the Kargil district president of the National Conference, has the backing of the Congress's entire Kargil unit and was the unanimous choice to fight the Lok Sabha elections as an independent.

In a related development, two independent candidates -- Sajjad Hussain and Kacho Mohd Peroz -- withdrew their candidature in support of Jan on the last date for withdrawal, setting the stage for a triangular contest on seat where the BJP has fielded Tashi Gyalon, Chief Executive Councillor-cum-Chairman of the Ladakh Autonomous Civil Development Council (Leh).

The BJP had won the seat in 2014 and 2019.

Jan also has the backing of powerful religious schools and thus is seen as a serious contender.

The KDA and the Leh Apex Body have been jointly spearheading an agitation for the past four years to demand statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil and jobs for local youths.

Akhon said they have taken the decision to resign from the basic membership of NC in the larger interest of Ladakh, especially the Kargil region.

"Jan is the united choice of KDA and we thank both the independents who withdrew in his support. The party high command was putting pressure on us to support Congress party's official candidate. They were telephoning me and I told them 'never'. We made the sacrifice in the larger interest of Ladakh, especially Kargil," he said.

Akhon said Jan is a unanimous candidate of all political, social and religious groups of Kargil and "we will do whatever is needed for his win".

Jan had already submitted his resignation from the NC and "we are resigning from the basic membership of the party and disassociating with it", he said.

In his letter to Abdullah, Akhon said Jan is supported by all the political and religious institutions.

"The party high command is pressuring us (both telephonically as well on social media) to support the official candidate of INC (Congress) from Ladakh which is unacceptable to us including J&K NC and INC Unit Kargil," the letter reads.

Akhon said this letter may be considered as mass resignation of all party functionaries from the primary membership of J&K National Conference.

Meanwhile, Returning officer of Ladakh Lok Sabha constituency Santosh Sukhadeve confirmed withdrawal of candidature by two independent candidates.

Sajjad Hussain and Peroz, who both hail from Kargil, withdrew their nominations, leaving three candidates in the fray from the constituency, Sukhadeve told PTI.

The Ladakh Lok Sabha constituency, which is the largest in the country in terms of geographical expanse with a total area of 173,266 square kilometers having over 1.82 lakh electorate, is going to polls in the fifth phase of elections on May 20.

**Court grants bail...**

of this Court. Bail bonds and personal bonds are duly accepted and attested by this Court and he is accordingly admitted to bail. However, accused person is directed to remain present in the Court on due date.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Special Judge CBI Bala Joyti took cog-

nizance against IAS officer and others in ED complaint and directed all the accused to appear on April 26, 2024.

The complaint under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 for the commission of offences under Section 3 and punishable under Section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 has been filed by the Assistant Director, Directorate of Enforcement Govt of India Transport Nagar Jammu against IAS officer Rajeev Ranjan, Rahul Grover, Gagan Singh, Itrat Hussain Rafiqi, Tariq Athar Beigh, Zumurad Hussain Shah, Syed Adeel Hussain Shah alias Sayed Adeel Hussain Shah, Syed Adeel Shah, Abdi Hussain Shah, Madan Mohan Bhargav, Mukesh Bhargav, Devi Dayal Khajuria, Kumar Jyoti Ranjan, Kripa Shankar Roy, Gaganpreet Singh, Hunney Preet Singh, Razia Rafiqi and Syed Atiq Ur Reham Nazki alias Dr Atiqualla.

After perusal of the contents of the complaint carefully and entire material on record, the court said, "it transpires that prima facie accused person appears to have committed offences as such process be issued for securing their presence accordingly", adding "office is directed to issue notices to accused persons for appearance and for filing their reply on the next date of hearing".

During the course of hearing an application was moved to defer taking of cognizance in ED complaint No. ECTR/JMSZ04/2020 till the status report of predicated offence's from CBI is obtained and till the final report under Section 173 of J&K CrPC is filed before the CBI court.

**Polling in 93...**

ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha) and Digvijaya Singh (Rajgarh) have also returned to the Lok Sabha electoral fray this time.

A riveting contest is on in Maharashtra's Baramati between Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule and Sunetra Pawar, wife of the veteran leader's estranged nephew and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

In Uttar Pradesh, the current phase is important for the Mulayam Singh Yadav family, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav aiming to retain the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat.

Dimple Yadav had won the seat in bypolls following the demise of her father-in-law Mulayam Singh Yadav. Akshaya Yadav, son of Ram Gopal Yadav, the national principal general secretary of SP, will try to reclaim the Firozabad seat, which he had won in 2014.

Aditya Yadav, the son of SP national general secretary Shivpal Yadav, is making his electoral debut from the Budaun Lok Sabha seat, which was represented by his cousin Dharmendra Yadav in 2014.

The fate of former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri) and AIUDF Badruddin Ajmal (Dhubri) will also be decided on May 7.

Voting was completed in 189 seats out of 543 seats in the first two phases. The next four phases will be on May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1. The counting of votes is on June 4.

In West Bengal, the four seats going to polls are Muslim-majority.

The division of minority votes among the Left-Congress combine and the TMC and the narrative on the Citizenship Amendment Act could shape the outcome in the intense electoral battle in Maldaha Uttar, Maldaha Dakshin, Jangipur and Murshidabad.

The Murshidabad and Jangipur Lok Sabha seats are held by the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which has renominated its sitting MPs Abu Taher and Bidi baron Khalilur Rehman respectively.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has again fielded Khagen Murmu for the Malda Uttar seat against TMC candidate Prasun Banerjee and former Congress MLA Mostaque Alam.

In the Malda Dakshin seat, the Congress has fielded Isha Khan Choudhury from the family of ABA Ghani Khan Choudhury.

"Polling parties have been dispatched along with EVMs and poll materials to their respective polling stations," the Election Commission said.

The third phase saw the BJP-led NDA and the INDIA bloc fiercely attacking each other on issues like reservations and sexual harassment charges against JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP charge, asking the Congress to give in writing that it will not hand over the quota for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to Muslims.

The Congress and its allies accused the BJP of trying to tamper with the Constitution and do away with reservations. The principal opposition party, which has promised to remove the 50 per cent cap on reservations, also asked the BJP to clear its stance on the issue.

The constituencies going to the polls in the third phase in Bihar are Araria, Jhaujharpur, Supaul, Madhepura and Khagaria, all currently held by the NDA.

In Assam, Sashastra Seema Bal troops have been deployed on boats to polling sta-

tions in South Salmara Mankachar PC for the third phase of elections. In Bihar, polling personnel navigated the river Kosi on boats to reach polling stations in Supaul, the EC said.

"A total of 4303 Flying Squads, 5534 Static Surveillance Teams, 1987 Video Surveillance Teams and 949 Video Viewing Teams are keeping surveillance round the clock to strictly and swiftly deal with any form of inducement of voters," the EC said.

It said 75 delegates from 23 countries will visit polling stations in six states, as part of the International Election Visitor Programme.

**CEO for intensifying...**

polling staff and designated deployment, home voting and expenditure monitoring.

While reviewing status of commissioning of EVMs and training of designated staff, the CEO emphasized comprehensive hands on training aimed at familiarizing the poll staff with the operation and maintenance of EVMs. He also asked the AROs to ensure proper uploading of data on EMS.

The CEO directed for wide publicity of election related activities including SVEEP awareness activities for encouragement of general public to vote and register highest voter turnout in the district.

District Election Officer (DEO), Budgam, Akshay Labroo, through a PowerPoint Presentation, presented the district profile and overall arrangements in place for free, fair and smooth conduct of elections in the district. He said that all ECI guidelines are being implemented in letter and spirit in the district and efforts are being made to ensure maximum participation of voters in the festival of democracy.

The DEO also briefed about the functioning of MCMC, deployment of SST, FST, VVT and teams, arrangements for senior citizens and PwDs voters in the district.

SSP Budgam, briefed about overall security arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of elections in the district.

All AROs, Nodal Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

**J&K Bank mPay...**

our pursuit of excellence. The customer survey feature allows us to understand our users' preferences and modify our services to align with their tastes accordingly. It's a win-win for both the Bank and our valued customers."

Earlier, General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat highlighted how the new features enhance customer convenience. He said, "The new features in the mPay Delight+ app underscore the Bank's commitment to customer-centric digital transformation, paving the way for more secure, efficient, and user-friendly mobile banking services. The latest updates to the mPay Delight+ app are designed to bring ease and efficiency in the functioning of our app for customers."

Making a brief presentation on the occasion, DGM Mohammad Muzaffar Wani gave an overview of the newly added features. He said, "We are excited to provide these value-added services, reinforcing our commitment to customer satisfaction. The newly introduced mPay Lite is a simplified version of mPay Delight+ that offers a basic menu with key functions such as funds transfer, mini-statements, PIN changes, and deposit/loan account inquiries. Customers can also manage beneficiaries through this version."

"Notably, the UPI Scan & Pay feature allows users to scan and pay using any type of QR code. It also provides a hassle-free method for linking accounts with UPI, with no requirement for debit cards or Aadhaar OTP. Additionally, customers can send money to any virtual payment address (VPA) and review the status of past UPI transactions."

"Our added feature of Credit Card Management in mPAY Delight+ offer greater control and flexibility, while the customer survey gives us direct insights into how we can continue to meet customer expectations", he stated.

**Indo-Pak confrontation...**

would want to be part of India after seeing the development in Kashmir.

Abdullah questioned the Centre's policy of holding talks with China but not with Pakistan. "The only alternative, other than a war, is... dialogue. They (Centre) can talk to China 19 times. China is occupying thousands of kanals of our land and China is not budging. Instead, it is advancing. Why can't they talk to them (Pakistan) so that this blood-letting stops and we can live in peace?" he asked.

On the Poonch attack, Abdullah said Union Home Minister Amit Shah should answer for it.

"I think it is a very sad incident. Our soldier has been martyred. They have been repeatedly saying that Article 370 is responsible. Now Article 370 is also not there but you should ask the home minister whether terrorism is still there or not.

"Our soldiers get martyred every day and they are silent. Then they blame us. They should refrain from it," he added.

**Drug peddler arrested, contraband substance, gold recovered; another booked under PIT NDPS Act**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**BARAMULLA:** Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested a drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substance from his possession. Besides, booked a notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act.

A Police party of Police Post Wussan headed by IC PP Wussan at a checkpoint established at New Colony Wussan, intercepted a person identified as Lateef Ahmad Mir son of Gh Mohiuddin resident of Waripora Tapper. During search, 32 grams of Charas, 01 gold ring & cash amount of ₹250 was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Pattan where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation has been initiated.

Meanwhile, Police booked notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention order from competent authority. The notorious drug smuggler namely Bilal Ahmad Sheikh son of Late Ghulam Hassan resident of Zeharpora Boniyar has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority. The booked drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said drug smuggler and was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Uri, Kamalkote, Boniyar & other areas of District. Despite their involvement in many FIRs, they did not mend their activities and were again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

**Eight gamblers arrested; stake money seized**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**KULGAM:** Continuing its drive against social crimes, Police in Kulgam acting swiftly following a specific information regarding gambling in the jurisdiction of Police Station Qaimoh, a Police party headed by SHO Police Station Qaimoh raided the suspected gambling sites at Reshipora, Qaimoh and near Railway Station Anantnag and apprehended 08 gamblers.

Stake money of ₹6,460/ and sets of playing cards were recovered from their possession. Regarding the incidents, cases under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Qaimoh and investigations have been initiated.

**5 vehicles seized for illegal mining**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SAMBA:** Continuing its drive against illegal mining, J&K Police has seized five vehicles across district Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Vijaypur, SHO Police Station Ghagwal and SHO Police Station Sambahweli performing patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area, have seized four dumpers bearing registration Nos.,JK21J-9190, JK21J-3591, JK21J-9291, JK02CA-2497 and a tractor trolley without registration number for illegal mining/transportation of construction material in the area.

**Kidnapped minor girl recovered, accused arrested**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SAMBA:** Police recovered a kidnapped minor girl from Himachal Pradesh in a kidnapping case registered at Police Station Samba and arrested the accused.

A written complaint was lodged at Police Station Samba by the relative of kidnapped girl, a resident of Arazi Samba stating therein that his granddaughter has been kidnapped by some unknown person.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No. 28/2024 u/s 363 IPC got registered at Police Station Samba and search was started to trace the said kidnapped girl.

Special teams of PS Samba led by SHO PS Samba conducted raids at different places with in and out of UT J&K. A police team headed by IC PP SIDCO Samba finally succeeded in tracing out the said kidnapped girl from Solan District, Himachal Pradesh.

The accused namely Sumit Kumar @ Manish S/o Sanjay Kumar R/o KothiMorh, Chak Chua tehsil Bishnah district Jammu has also been arrested. During the course of investigation, sections 366/120-B/212 IPC have been added and further investigation is underway.

**Fire gutted religious institute's building, Panchayat Ghar, residential structure in Chhatroo**



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**KISHTWAR:** The repeated fire incidents in Chhatroo have attracted sparked response from the people in Madrasah in the wake of failure of the Fire and Emergency Services Department in Kishtwar District to act timely and avoid the loss of property worth crores with the gutting of a religious building, religious books, cloths of the students in the religious school, Panchayat Ghar and a residential structure.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Vice Chairman and Former Minister, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori in his press statement has expressed his deep concern over this fire incident and has demanded to register an FIR against the Fire and Emergency Services Department for negligence and keeping a non-functional vehicle available.

Saroori said in his press statement, "Soon after the fire breaks out, and gutted both the buildings which were destroyed due to alleged short circuit in the Chhatroo Darsghah (Madarsa), along with the Panchayat Ghar Building and a Private Residential house." He added, "At the time of need, the vehicle of the fire and emergency service was completely useless due to which no effort could be made to control the incident of fire."

He said that a probe should be ordered, and a functional vehicle of the fire and emergency services should be placed.

However, while appreciating the timely efforts of the locals, district administration, he said that with the efforts of local people an attempt was made to control the fire by arranging a water tanker, but all efforts failed.

He demanded from the LG administration to investigate the matter of the fire and emergency services department's vehicle being inactive. He said that the fire and emergency services department is trying to throw dust in the eyes of the public and tried to fool people by keeping the vehicles for show only, because these vehicles are of no use.

He called this negligence intolerable and demanded to fix the responsibilities and bring the culprits to justice.

**Missing girl traced, reunited with legal heirs**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Police on Monday traced a missing girl and reunited her with her family. On Feb 9, 2024, a missing report of one girl (Name Withheld), resident of Haryana at present Kullian Tehsil R S Pura District Jammu was entered in Police Station Miran Sahib vide GD No. 10 dated 09/02/2024.

Acting upon it, a Police party led by P/S Miran Sahib did strenuous efforts, searched various places and with the help of technical assistance alongwith timely human intervention recovered the above mentioned missing girl. After completing all legal formalities the said girl was handed over to her legal heirs and the missing report was accordingly closed.

**Drug menace: Surprise checking of selective Kullas by police**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Continuing its drive under operation SANJEEVENI against the drug menace affecting society in the UT of J&K, multiple surprise checkings were conducted reportedly in hot spots of drugs generally Kullas in the vicinity of SOS by SDPO Domana and IC PP PouniChak in the presence of EMIC Jammu West.

During surprise checking various places were checked and people were made aware about drug abuse and its legal consequences. Besides this general public was also asked to cooperate with the police actively and to share valuable information timely so that this menace can be curb from the society. Nearby medical shops were also checked necessary directions were imparted regarding maintenance of register and installation of CCTV cameras.The overall operation was conducted under the guidance and immediate supervision of SP Rural Jammu.

**63 bovines rescued, 5 smugglers nabbed**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**REASI/ RAMBAN/NAGROTA:** Continuing special drive against the bovine smugglers, Reasi police foiled bovine smuggling at Arnas . An information through reliable source received at P/S Arnas that some bovine smugglers have carried bovine animals by foot towards Kashmir for selling purpose. Soon after the receipt of the information, the police party laid a Naka at narloo bridge area and bovine smuggler namely Sajad Ahmed, son of Abdul Latif, resident of Bharkh Tehsil Pouni District Reasi who was found carrying 07 bovine animals without any valid permission of the concerned authority, was apprehended by the Police party.

On this, Case FIR No. 36/2024 under section 188 IPC 11(1) (A) PCA Act stands registered at P/S Arnas and investigation initiated to unearth the forward and backward linkages. The whole operation is led by SHO P/S Arnas Insp. Vijay kumar under supervision of SDPO Arnas Irfan Khan-JKPS.

Ramban police also foiled bovine smuggling attempts, registered 03 FIRs arrested 03 bovine smugglers, rescued 41 bovines and seized 02 vehicles. Police team of Police station Batote headed by SHO Batote during Patrolling duties intercepted a person namely Bashir Ahmed son of Abdul Rashid resident of Khadnihar,Baramulla who was taking 11 bovine animals on foot towards kashmir without any valid permission.

In another instance Police Party of PS Chanderkote headed by SHO Chanderkote foiled Bovine smuggling bid intercepted a vehicle bearing registration No JK 21H 3068 and held one person namely Ashiq Ali son of Shaffi Mohd resident of Gool Ramban.During checking 4 bovines were found laden inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally towards Kashmir.

In another instance Police Party of PS Banihal headed by SHO Banihal foiled a bovine smuggling bid, intercepted a vehicle bearing registration No JK19 A 5234 and held one person namely Asif son of Mohd Arif resident of Ramban. During checking, 26 bovines were found laden inside both the vehicles, which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally towards Kashmir.

As a result, a total of 41 bovine animals were rescued under the operation "KAMDHENU." Subsequently, FIR Nos. 61/2024 was registered at Police Station Batote, FIR No 60/2024 at PS Chanderkote and FIR No 64/2024 at PS Banihal under Sections 188 IPC and under section 11 of the Prevention of cruelty to Animals Act. The investigation has been initiated into these cases. 02 persons arrested and 02 vehicles involved in the commission of offence have been seized.

The successful rescue operation was conducted by Police parties led by SHO Police Station Batote, SHO PS Chanderkot and SHO PS Banihal under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Ramban, SDPO Banihal, Addl.SP Ramban, with the overall supervision by SSP Ramban.

Meanwhile, Police party of Police station Nagrota has foiled bovine smuggling bid in which 15 bovines were rescued and 01 vehicle Truck bearing registration number HP62A-0703 seized from ban toll Naka point. Accused Driver Ahmed Din, son of Jalal Din, resident of Village Saral Tehsil and District Poonch was arrested on spot.

In this regard, Case FIR No.136/2024 U/S 188/IPC 11 PCA 50/52/54/56 Transport of Animals Rules 1978 Act has been registered in Police Station Nagrota and investigation of the case is in progress.