

03 IIM Jammu's Roundtable 1.0: Industry Academia Meet at New Delhi-shaping future of Management Education

05 Property of drug peddlers worth 7.5 million rupees attached in last five months

10 Jammu boy Vimaljit to represent Indian team in South Asia Body Building C'ship

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

EXIT POLLS: Modi led NDA may surpass '400 Paar'

Several polsters predict big win for BJP-led NDA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Several exit polls on Saturday predicted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will retain power for a third straight term, with the BJP-led NDA expected to win a big majority in the Lok Sabha polls.

The ruling alliance in all likelihood will open its account in Tamil Nadu and Kerala and sweep Karnataka but may see a fall in its tally in states like Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana, according to these pollsters.

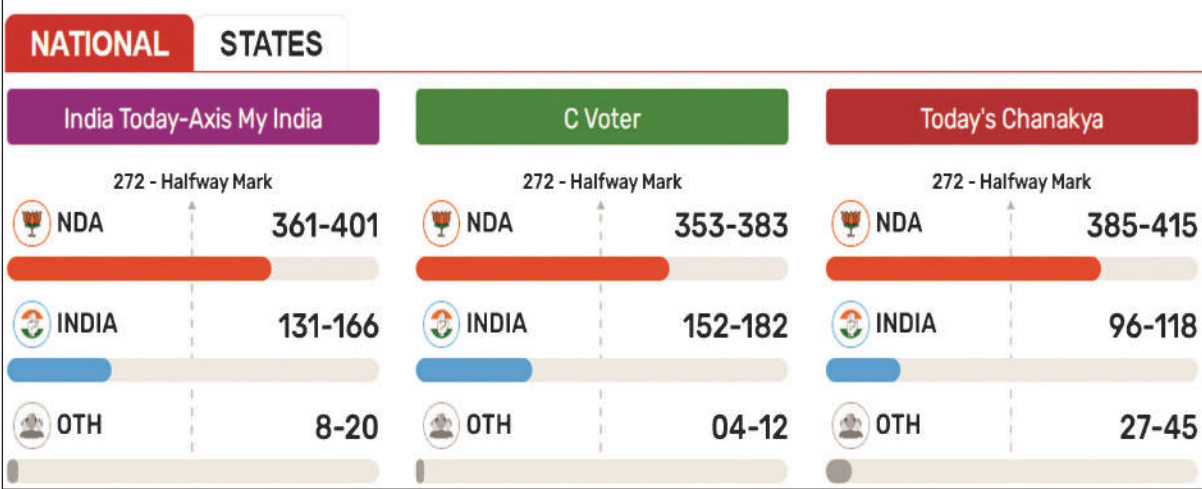
According to Axis My India-India Today exit polls 2024, the NDA is expected to bag 361-401 seats, while INDIA bloc is expected to win 131-166 seats, and 'others' to snatch 8-20 seats. Poll pundits have said this is BJP's best-ever performance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to return with an even bigger mandate.

The Republic TV-P Marq poll claimed that the ruling alliance will win up to 359 seats and the opposition INDIA bloc will bag 154 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha. The Republic TV-Matrize poll gave 353-368 seats to the NDA and 118-133 seats to the opposition.

The Jan Ki Baat poll gave 362-392 seats to the ruling NDA and 141-161 to the opposition alliance. The India TV-CNX gave them 371-401 and 109-139 seats respectively, while the corresponding tally predicted by News Nation was 342-378 and 153-169.

A few other exit polls, including those from Axis My India and Today's Chanakya, were yet to forecast the full results by 8.40 pm.

In the 2019 polls, the BJP won 303 seats, while the NDA tally was 353. The Congress had bagged 53 seats and its allies 38. The



'INDIA' bloc was formed by opposition parties to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections.

After the seventh and last phase of voting ended on Saturday, Modi exuded confidence that people have voted in record numbers to re-elect the NDA government and said the "opportunistic INDI

Alliance" failed to strike a chord with the voters who rejected their "regressive politics".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge told reporters after a meeting of the opposition INDIA bloc that the alliance will win more than 295 seats. "We have arrived at this fig-

ure after speaking with all our leaders. This is a survey of people. People have given this information to our leaders. The government surveys are there and their media friends also inflate figures and put it out. Therefore, we want to tell you about the reality," he said.

BJP president J P Nadda,

however, asserted that people have voted for a capable, powerful, developed and self-reliant India and to put aside appeasement, nepotism and corruption, exuding confidence that his party will win more than 370 Lok Sabha seats and the NDA over 400. The counting of votes will take place on June 4.

LS polls: Counting of votes from 8 AM on June 4, says EC

NEW DELHI: The counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections and state assemblies of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and the assembly by-polls will commence at 8 AM on June 4, the Election Commission said on Saturday.

The counting of votes for the assembly polls in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh will start from 6 AM on Sunday, it said. The counting of votes for the assembly polls in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh was advanced from June 4 to June 2 as the term of the two assemblies are ending on June 2 and a new House has to be constituted by that day.

In a statement on Saturday, the Election Commission also shared a set of latest instructions issued by it on counting arrangements, counting procedure and storage of EVMs and paper trail machines.

According to one of the instructions, as per Rule 54A of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the counting of postal ballot papers will be started first at the returning officer's table. The local display of the trends

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG Sinha casts vote in Ghazipur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

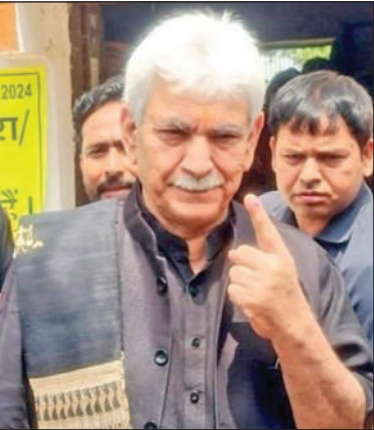
GHAZIPUR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday cast vote at a polling booth in Mohanpura village of Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh urging voters to participate in the democratic process.

"This is a festival of democracy, and I appeal to all the voters for maximum participation in voting," Sinha said after casting his vote in the seventh and final Phase of the Lok Sabha election 2024.

Uttar Pradesh voted in all

seven phases of the Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress is fighting



the polls in partnership with the Samajwadi Party in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Bank signs MoU with Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Saturday entered into a strategic partnership with Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank (ACCB) to establish a robust cash deposit arrangement for ACCB's 34 branches. This collaboration is designed to provide cash deposit facility to all Branch of ACCB across the districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian.

During the signing ceremony, General Manager (Strategy & IT) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat signed the Memorandum of



J&K Bank's General Manager (Strategy & IT) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat along with ACCB General Manager Intikhab Hussain Deen and others during signing of MoU.

Understanding (MoU) on behalf of J&K Bank formally, while General Manager Intikhab Hussain Deen put in his signatures representing ACCB in presence of senior

officers of both the organizations here at the Bank's corporate headquarters.

Speaking about the collaboration, General Manager, J&K Bank Imtiyaz Ahmad

Bhat said, "This partnership with Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank marks a significant step in fostering the relationship between J&K Bank and ACCB. By leveraging our extensive network and robust infrastructure, we aim to provide seamless cash deposit facility to all Branches of ACCB"

"We are proud to partner with the premier financial institution of J&K and with this tie-up we hope to deliver best value to our customers. The MoU shall help strengthen the bond between the two organizations

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Ban on sale, consumption of tobacco products in Vaishno Devi town

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Saturday banned the sale, possession and consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products in the holy town of Katra, which houses the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, officials said.

Reasi District Magistrate Vishesh Mahajan said the initiative, launched on the World No-Tobacco Day, aims to maintain the sanctity of the religious place visited by lakhs of pilgrim every year.

The administration has already banned the sale, possession, and consumption of meat and liquor in Katra and adjoining areas.

"Under Section 144, we have imposed a ban on the stocking, sale, and consumption of cigarettes, gutkha and other forms of tobacco in the area starting from Numaee and Panthal check posts via Tara Court track up to Bhavan," Mahajan told reporters. "The ban is an extension of the existing prohibition on the sale

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 42.9°C Min: 30.1°C

Humidity
Max: 26 Min: 12

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 6.8°C Min: 2.8°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 83

Sunset: 19:33 Hours
Sunrise: 05:23 Hours

Shri Somnath symbol of pride in Sanatan culture: Amit Shah



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Lord Somnath is the symbol of pride in the indelible Sanatan culture.

Shah said he wished for everyone's prosperity while offering prayers at the jyotirlinga temple of Lord Shiv in Gujarat on Friday.

One of the trustees of the Shree Somnath Trust which

manages the temple, Shah performed 'dhvaj puja' on Friday evening. The dhvaj (flag) was hoisted atop the temple dome after conducting rituals.

"Jai Shri Somnath. The first Jyotirlinga Shri Somnath Mahadev is the symbol of pride in continuous, indelible and abiding Sanatan culture. They inspire us to persevere even after many struggles.

"After visiting and worshipping Baba Somnath, I wished for everyone's welfare and continued prosperity of India," Shah posted on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Authentic dying declaration can be sole basis for conviction without any corroboration: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: An authentic dying declaration that inspires the confidence of the court can be relied upon and be the sole basis for the conviction of an accused without any corroboration, the Supreme Court has said.

The top court made this observation on May 15 while upholding the conviction of an ex-army personnel for murdering his wife, a police constable, in Maharashtra's Beed district 22 years ago.

It said that the court has to scrutinise the dying declaration carefully and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CEO reviews counting preparedness by ROs, DEOs



CEO J&K, Pandurang K. Pole chairing a meeting in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole, on Saturday had a comprehensive review of preparedness of the districts ahead of the final counting of votes for Lok Sabha Elections 2024 here at Nirvachan Bhawan,

Jammu.

The meeting was virtually attended by all the District Election Officers along with the concerned Assistant Returning Officers and ARO Migrants (Jammu, Udhampur, and Delhi). The counting of votes is scheduled to take place on 4th June across 9 counting centres.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Opportunistic INDI Alliance's regressive politics rejected: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday exuded confidence that people have voted in record numbers to re-elect the NDA government and said the "opportunistic INDI Alliance" failed to strike a chord with the voters who rejected their "regressive politics".

As polling ended for the seventh and final phase of the Lok Sabha polls, Modi said the people have seen his government's track record and the manner in which its work has brought about a qualitative change in the lives of the poor, marginalised and downtrodden.

"India has voted! A heartfelt thank you to all those who exercised their franchise. Their active participation is the cornerstone of our

democracy. Their commitment and dedication ensures that the democratic spirit thrives in our nation. I would also like to specially appreciate India's Nari Shakti and Yuva Shakti. Their strong presence at the polls is a very encouraging sign," Modi said in a series of posts on X.

The prime minister said he can say with confidence that the people of India have voted in record numbers to re-elect the NDA government.

"They have seen our track record and the manner in which our work has brought about a qualitative change in the lives of the poor, marginalised and downtrodden," Modi said.

At the same time, they have seen how the reforms in India have propelled the nation to being the fifth



largest global economy, he added.

The prime minister said that every scheme of the government has reached the intended beneficiaries without any bias or leakage.

Lashing out at the opposition coalition, Modi said, "The opportunistic INDI Alliance failed to strike a

chord with the voters. They are casteist, communal and corrupt. This alliance, aimed to protect a handful of dynasties, failed to present a futuristic vision for the nation."

"Through the campaign, they only enhanced their expertise on one thing- Modi bashing. Such regressive politics has been rejected by the

people," he added.

He also applauded each and every NDA worker across the length and breadth of India.

"I compliment them for meticulously explaining our development agenda to the people and motivating them to come out and vote. Our karyakartas are our greatest strength," Modi said.

The prime minister also hailed the Election Commission for their "exemplary efforts" in conducting the polls.

"I would like to commend the Election Commission for their exemplary efforts in ensuring a smooth and fair electoral process. Their dedication and meticulous planning have been crucial in upholding the integrity of our democracy, allowing

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi concludes meditation; says he feels divine energy

KANYAKUMARI (TAMIL NADU): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday concluded his 45-hour-long meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial here and said he felt a divine energy.

On conclusion of his dhyana session, Modi, clad in white, visited the 133-ft statue of Thiruvalluvar, located next to the rock memorial and placed a huge garland there marking his tribute. He arrived at the statue complex by a ferry service and later reached the shore using the service.

BJP leader and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a post on 'X' said: "On completing his meditation on the Vivekananda Rock Memorial PM @narendramodi writes: Visiting the 'Vivekananda Rock Memorial' at Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of India, I feel a divine energy."

Furthermore, the PM said: "It is on this rock that Mother Parvati and Swami Vivekananda had meditated. Later, Eknath Ranade transformed this rock into a 'Shila Snarak' that brought Swami Vivekananda's thoughts to life.

Swami Vivekananda, a leader of spiritual renaissance, has been my ideal, my energy, and the source of my spirituality. Years ago, after traveling across the entire country, when Swami Vivekananda meditated here, it was here that he envisioned a new direction for India's

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9