

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
LS polls: Counting...

and results by the chief electoral officers of states, returning officers and district election officers will also be done through digital display panels.

Kejriwal to be...

Kharge's home. Prominent AAP leaders including Cabinet minister Atishi, Rajya Sabha MPs Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh, and MLA Durgesh Pathak attended the PAC meeting, with sources saying the chief minister emphasised the need to keep unity among the party leaders in his absence.

It was also emphasised that Kejriwal will remain chief minister, and his wife Sunita Kejriwal will continue to covey his messages to party leaders, volunteers and the people of Delhi, the sources said.

Kejriwal was released from the jail on May 10 on interim bail granted by the Supreme Court for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls. The polls ended on June 1.

Kejriwal said on Friday that he will leave around 3 PM on June 2 to surrender before the jail authorities.

The chief minister had earlier moved the Supreme Court seeking a seven-day extension of the interim bail granted by it in the money laundering case linked to alleged excise policy scam.

However, the SC registry on Wednesday refused an urgent listing of his plea in which he had pleaded he needed time to undergo medical tests as he was losing weight and was having high ketone level.

He then moved the special CBI-ED court seeking interim bail on medical grounds.

Hearing his plea on Saturday, the court of special judge Kavari Baweja reserved for June 5 its order his application. The court observed that the plea was for interim bail on medical grounds and not for the extension of the interim bail granted by the SC.

The Enforcement Directorate opposed his interim bail plea, arguing he campaigned throughout the elections, but "now when he has to surrender, he suddenly claims to be ill".

The case being probed by the ED relates to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

Kejriwal has asked people not to be sad if anything happens to him in jail. He also asserted he was proud of going to jail to save the country from "dictatorship", saying he did not know how long will he remain behind the bars this time.

He also appealed to the people of Delhi to pray for his elderly parents.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the chief minister should stop his "illness drama" and go back to the jail if he has any respect for law.

It is regrettable to see Kejriwal campaigning after getting bail in a healthy condition and now claiming to be seriously ill and seeking bail on medical ground, he said.

J&K Bank signs...

resulting in a mutually beneficial association", said General Manager, ACCB Intikhab Hussain Deen on the occasion. Notably, under this agreement, J&K Bank will offer cash deposit services to ACCB branches at mapped branches.

LG Sinha casts...

the state and has a seat-sharing agreement with each other.

In the 2019 general elections, the BJP emerged triumphant, securing 62 out of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh, supplemented by two seats clinched by its ally Apna Dal (S). Mayawati's BSP managed to secure 10 seats, while Akhilesh Yadav's SP garnered five. Conversely, the Congress party secured only one seat.

CEO reviews counting...

facilitation centres for Media as well as contesting candidates and their counting agents.

The Chief Electoral officer directed the RO'S/DEO'S to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for counting of Postal Ballots and ETPBS as well as for VVPAT slips. He also asked the officers to ensure the provision of proper manpower for data entry in ENCORE.

Stressing the need for a smooth and incident-free counting process, the CEO directed the districts to properly train and sensitize the manpower involved in counting so that proper discipline and decorum at the counting centres is maintained. He also asked the districts to ensure installation of CCTV cameras besides making appropriate arrangements for Videography at the Counting Centres.

The meeting was informed that 10 counting centres have been established for Lok Sabha Polls 2024 in Jammu and Kashmir. These centres included Government Degree College (Boys) Baramulla for Baramulla PC, Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) for Srinagar PC, Government Degree College (Boys) Anantnag and Government PG College Rajouri for Anantnag-Rajouri PC, Government Degree College Kathua for Udhampur PC, premises comprising Government Polytechnic College and Government MAM college Jammu for Jammu PC, Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu for ARO Migrant Jammu, Government Girls Higher Secondary School Udhampur for ARO Migrant Udhampur and 5 Prithviraj Road J&K House, New Delhi, for ARO Migrant Delhi.

Authentic dying declaration...

ensure it is consistent, credible and devoid of tutoring.

"Once a dying declaration is found to be authentic and inspiring the court's confidence, then the same can be relied upon and can be the sole basis for conviction without any corroboration.

"However, before accepting such a dying declaration, the court must be satisfied that it was rendered voluntarily, is consistent and credible, and is devoid of any tutoring. Once such a conclusion is reached, a great deal of sanctity is attached to a dying declaration and as said earlier, it can form the sole basis for conviction," a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said.

In this case, the prosecution claimed that the victim was subjected to cruelty by her husband, brother-in-law and other in-laws.

On the fateful day, the woman was beaten up by her husband and brother-in-law who tied her hands with a 'gamcha' (thin and coarse cotton towel) and her feet with a towel and gagged her face.

The brother-in-law then got a matchbox and a bottle of kerosene, which the husband poured on her, and then lit the match-stick. The woman got completely burnt in the incident.

Her neighbours took her to the hospital, where her dying declaration was recorded based on which the Ambajogai police station in Beed district registered a case under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 498A (subjecting women to cruelty), 342 (wrongful confinement), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult) read with section 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The trial court in 2008 had convicted the husband for committing an offence punishable under section 302 (murder) read with section 34 of the IPC 1860 and sentenced him to life imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs 25,000. This verdict was upheld by the Bombay High Court.

The husband then moved the Supreme Court, which suspended his sentence and granted him bail in 2016 noting that he had already undergone about nine years of sentence.

Accepting the dying declaration of the deceased woman as a valid piece of evidence, the top court said that having sieved through the evidence carefully, it has no hesitation that the appellant is guilty of committing the offence and that the guilt has been proved beyond all reasonable doubt.

The appellant is directed to surrender before the trial court within two weeks to carry out his sentence, it said.

Shri Somnath symbol...

X on Saturday. During his brief halt at the Rajkot International Airport on Friday evening before heading for Somnath, Shah took stock of the action taken following the devastating fire at TRP Game Zone which claimed 27 lives last Saturday.

The Gandhinagar MP instructed the district collector to take necessary preventative measures to check the spread of cholera in Gandhinagar area, stated a B-JP release.

"Shah also gave necessary directions for taking precautionary measures in the cholera-affected areas of Gandhinagar to control the epidemic and ensure the affected people receive proper treatment," it said.

Opportunistic INDI Alliance's...

citizens across the nation to vote with confidence and security," Modi said.

"Our electoral process is something every believer in democratic values takes inspiration from," he added.

Modi also thanked the security forces for their unwavering vigilance during the entire elections.

"Heartfelt gratitude to our outstanding security forces for their unwavering vigilance during the entire elections. Their efforts have ensured a safe and secure environment, enabling people to take part in the polling process with ease," he said.

"Their service to the nation is deeply appreciated by each one of us," Modi added.

In the seventh and final phase, polling was conducted in seven states and the Union Territory of Chandigarh for 57 constituencies, including Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh from where Prime Minister Modi is seeking a third consecutive term in the Lok Sabha. The results of the elections will be announced on June 4.

Modi concludes meditation...

revival. It is my fortune that today, after so many years, as India embodies the values and ideals of Swami Vivekananda, I too have had the opportunity to meditate at this sacred place.

My meditation at this 'Shila Smarak' is one of the unforgettable moments of my life. Sitting at the feet of 'Ma Bharati', I once again reaffirm my resolve that every moment of my life and every particle of my body will always be dedicated to the service of the nation. With wishes for the progress of the nation and the welfare of its citizens, I offer my utmost reverence to 'Ma Bharati'. The Prime Minister left by a helicopter for Thiruvananthapuram and from there, he left for Delhi. On his arrival here on May 30, the PM prayed at the Bhagavathy Amman temple and later arrived at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

During his stay at the memorial, the PM did meditation and also performed 'Surya Arghya' at the time of sunrise, a ritual associated with spiritual practice. Modi was clad in saffron while he was engaged in meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

The PM's visit to Kanyakumari to perform meditation evoked opposition from INDIA bloc constituents including Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK. The opposition was to the broadcast of meditation in view of last phase of polling on June 1.

In view of the PM's stay, senior DMK leader and Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan on May 31 alleged that tourists were not allowed in that area which had seriously affected the local businesses and 'we have pointed out that this is not good.'

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K Selvaperunthagai on Saturday told reporters that those doing meditation do it peacefully without any hindrance and all alone. "How can a person do Dhyana with 14 cameras in front of him? Is this meditation? This is dhyana eyeing electoral politics," the Congress leader alleged. He accused Modi of trying to sully Swami Vivekananda's reputation by acting against the spiritual leader's legacy and hence, 'condemnable.'

At the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, the PM embarked on his 45-hour long meditation on the evening of May 30 and completed it on Saturday. Kanyakumari is famous for its sunrise and sunset and the memorial is located on a tiny islet near the shoreline.

Ban on sale...

and consumption of liquor and meat," he said.

Mahajan said the move aims to keep the Katra base camp, the track and the entire area tobacco free.

Katra has been witnessing a rush of more than 30,000-40,000 pilgrims on a daily basis these days.

The cave shrine in Trikuta hills in Jammu's Reasi district was visited by more than 93.50 lakh pilgrims in 2023 -- the highest footfall in a decade. According to the shrine officials, it surpassed the 2013 figure of 93.24 lakh.

SANJY-2024 arrangements discussed at Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: To discuss the arrangements for forthcoming Shree Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024 in the District Udhampur, the Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai on Saturday convened a meeting of officers of different departments and representatives here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Iqbal, Additional SP, Baljit Singh, ACD, Dr Ranjeet Kotwal and other district heads of various departments besides representatives of Beopar Mandal, Chamber of Commerce attended the meeting.

Detailed deliberation were held on a range of arrangements, including establish-



Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai chairing a meeting.

ment of lodgement centres, Setting up of langers, Medical facilities, Drinking water facilities, Electricity facilities, Installation of temporary and fabricated toilets, Sanitation, Traffic managements, Security arrangements, Setting up of control room, Checking of rates, Deployment of magistrates, Coordination committees, Emergency response, Installation of signage boards etc were discussed in

detail.

The DC emphasized upon all the participants to work with full zeal and zest and provide their full cooperation for the smooth conduct of the yatra. Nodal officers of lodgement centres were asked to visit their respective lodgement centres and furnish detailed report on availability of electricity /water/ clean space/toilet facility as per devised format.

The CMO was directed to prepare a plan for establishment of necessary medical facilities at NH-44 from Tikri to Chenani. The Jal Shakti department was directed to take measures for uninterrupted water supply to all the transit locations, while the PDD authorities were asked to ensure all necessary arrangements for providing electricity supply to the lodgement centres/langers.

The CEO MC was directed to ensure installation of pre-fabricated toilets, while nodal officers were asked to visit and check availability of proposed toilets and ensure cleanliness in and around the lodgement centres.

Tourism department was directed to install signboards at the entry point in Kali Mata Temple Phallata, Gole Mela Chowk, Jakhani and Chenani.

GDCW Kathua hosts webinar on "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Drug De-Addiction and Psychological Counselling Cell of Government Degree College for Women, Kathua, organized a significant webinar on Saturday on the topic "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference" to mark World Tobacco Day.

The event focused on the current landscape of drug abuse, and the social and financial exploitation of people, particularly the youth.

Principal of the college, Dr. Savi Bhel emphasized the importance of regularly organizing such initiatives.

The webinar saw active participation from various departments, including Health and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua. The event featured distinguished

speakers, Chief Scientist and Head of KVK Kathua Dr. Vishal Mahajan, and M.D. (Pathology) Dr. Reetika Gupta,

Convenor of the Drug De-Addiction/ Psychological Cell Dr. Renu Gupta highlighted the critical role of World Tobacco Day in raising awareness about the health risks associated with tobacco use. These risks include cancer, heart disease, stroke, and respiratory illnesses. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2024, "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference," aims to safeguard future generations and ensure a steady decline in tobacco consumption.

Dr. Vishal Mahajan, in his keynote address, underscored the importance of preventing tobacco use

among youth. He noted that nearly 90% of adults who smoke daily started by age 18, with flavorings in tobacco products making them particularly appealing to youth. He stressed the need to sensitize young people about the dangers of tobacco abuse, which severely impacts their health and future.

Dr. Reetika Gupta emphasized that adolescents are the most vulnerable to initiating tobacco use. She pointed out that while smoking rates have decreased in developed countries due to awareness of tobacco's harmful effects, tobacco companies are now targeting developing countries like India with aggressive advertising. This has led to a rapid increase in the trade and use of smokeless tobacco prod-

ucts, posing serious concerns for health planners. Dr. Gupta discussed various factors that influence young people to start using tobacco and outlined preventive strategies to combat this issue.

The event was meticulously supervised by Dr. Renu Gupta, with vital contributions from Prof. Seema Jolly, Dr. Inderjeet Kour, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Rachna Devi, Prof. Ronika Bhasin, Dr. Ambika, Prof. Surbhi Gupta, Dr. Kamini Kapoor, Dr. Sonika Jasrotia, Dr. Ajay Sanotra, and Dr. Gurpreet Kour, members of the Drug De-Addiction/ Psychological Cell.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Ajay Sanotra, recognizing the collective effort in making the event a success.

CCIU Doda observes Cyber Awareness Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: With a view to give awareness to General public about Cyber crime, on Saturday, J&K Police CCIU Doda organized Cyber awareness Day to observe "Cyber

"Jaagrookta Diwas" at District Hqrs Doda. The aim of organizing awareness drive was to aware the students in particular and general public at large about Cyber related Crimes and precautionary measures to tackle with it.

On this occasion lectures were delivered by IC CCIU Doda to the participants and they were aware about the use of cyber crime portal, floating trends of fraudsters to trap common man in their tricks

to loot their hard earned money by way of using various type of online cheating like credit card fraud, OTP , QR scan frauds, online gaming frauds, assuring loan frauds. Participants were also cautioned to keep their social media accounts secure and safe and also be aware while accepting / chatting with unknown person on facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Twitter etc. Mentionable here that cyber awareness programmes are being organized by J&K Police to spread the awareness of Cyber related crimes, online frauds, cheating among the general public so that common people may not get trapped in the net of fraudsters / cheaters.

DDC Kishtwar evaluates performance of Panchayats' on Dev Index

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav on Saturday assessed the performance of Panchayats based on the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) parameters here at a comprehensive review meeting.

The meeting focused on the progress of data validation in accordance with the data collection forms (DCF) of the PDI. A detailed discussion ensued on the indicators of the PDI, which measures the performance of Panchayats

across various development benchmarks.

The DDC emphasized collective efforts from stakeholder departments to bolster the functioning of Disaster Management Committees, ensure rigorous water testing, enroll out-of-school children (OOSC), and secure school perimeters in the Panchayat areas. He underscored the necessity for field staff's data to be endorsed by the respective officers to maintain accuracy and reliability.

Highlighting the removal of operational bottlenecks, Dr.

Devansh Yadav stressed the importance of seamless coordination among departments to guarantee the timely update of all indicators on the district's PDI portal. He directed officers to finalize the pending DCF details by June 5th to facilitate prompt and precise data validation.

The meeting saw the participation of ASP Kishtwar Pawan Sharma; ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh; DSWO Kishtwar Tariq Parvez Qazi; AD,FSC&CA Shafqat Keen, along with Tehsildars, BDOs, CDPOs, ExENS, CEO, and CMO.

SWD, H&FW organise awareness session for girls on health, hygiene

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The Social Welfare Department (SWD) in collaboration with Department of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and supervision of District Social Welfare Officer, Ramban Rahul Gupta, on Saturday organized an awareness programme for girls regarding reproductive health and hygiene.

The awareness programme was presided over by Medical Superintendent District Hospital Dr. Virender Trisal, and coordinated by TSWO Shahbaz and Gender Specialist

DHEW Muzaima Jan. The DSWO said that sessions like these are crucial for promoting awareness and education on important topics like reproductive health and hygiene among women.

Topics covered included menstrual health, family planning, safe sex practices, pregnancy care, and the importance of regular check-ups with healthcare providers. MS, DH Ramban Dr. Virender Trisal explained that providing women with accurate information and access to healthcare services can help them make informed decisions about their reproductive health and lead healthier lives.

Health Dept holds NCD Screening Camps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Health Department Doda on Saturday conducted Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening camps throughout the district. The camps were organized under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Om Kumar and the guidance of Block Medical Officers (BMOs). The initiative aimed at promoting health by facilitating the early detection of NCD diseases.

During the screening, patients visiting health centers for routine outpatient department (OPD) or medical checkups were examined for hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes. The screening was part of the department's weekly activity to ensure that these conditions are identified at an early stage.

The primary objective of the screening camps was to promote better health outcomes by enabling early diagnosis and timely management of diseases. By identifying health issues early, patients can receive appropriate care from the beginning, which can significantly improve their prognosis and quality of life.