

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Three-tier security...

said the counting process will take place in the Polytechnic College and M A M College.

"Votes from the seven assembly constituencies will be counted at M A M College, while 11 constituencies will be tallied at Polytechnic College," he added.

The administration has fully trained the staff and sensitized all polling agents for the counting process. This includes a detailed examination of the deployment of paramilitary and police personnel as well as the set up for counting staff and agents.

"All counting staff are fully trained and all political parties and their agents have been briefed and issued I-cards. The arrangements are comprehensive, covering traffic and security," Vaishya said.

CCTV cameras have been installed and videography arrangements are in place at the counting centers.

Over 12.86 lakh votes (72.22 per cent) will be counted in the Jammu constituency, where BJP's sitting MP Jugal Kishore Sharma aims for a third consecutive victory against Raman Bhalla, the working president of the J&K Congress unit, among 22 other candidates.

Both BJP and Congress have expressed confidence of winning the seat. "We are very confident that BJP will win this seat. It was predicted by the exit polls as well," Sharma said.

In Kathua, three-tier security is also in place for the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency counting scheduled for Tuesday.

Kathua Superintendent of Police Anayat Ali Choudhary, who took a review visit of the area, said that elaborate security arrangements have been made.

"Three tier security has been deployed here. We urge everyone to coordinate with the security forces and police. If there is any problem on the security front, it should be immediately brought to our knowledge," he told reporters.

Choudhary said that enhanced security has been deployed along the International Border (IB) and inter-district checkpoints to monitor and prevent any anti-social or anti-national activities.

The counting center for Udhampur Lok Sabha seat is set up at the Government Degree College Kathua, equipped with multi-tier security and 24x7 CCTV surveillance.

"Votes from 18 assembly segments, including Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar, will be counted in designated halls. Three halls are designated for counting Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) votes," said Returning Officer Dr Rakesh Minhas.

A total of 225 tables, each staffed by three personnel, will facilitate the counting process. Sixty tables are designated for ETPBS votes, each with a counting agent, a micro observer, a supervisor and an Assistant Returning Officer (ARO), the officials said.

The CCTV footage of the EVM strong rooms has been shared with the political parties' representatives. Nearly 10,000 staff members will handle the entire counting process, including transferring Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from strong rooms to counting halls, they added.

The Udhampur-Doda parliamentary constituency recorded a 68.23 per cent voter turnout on April 19, with 16,23,195 eligible voters casting their ballots. Over 11.08 lakh votes will determine the fate of 12 candidates, including Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who seeks a third consecutive win, competing against former minister and two-time MP Choudhary Lal Singh of the Congress.

Jammu City Traffic...

movement on the mentioned routes.

Diversions:- There will be no routine traffic movement/PSVs movements from Bikram Chowk to Asia Crossing and PHQ Rotary to Bikram Chowk to (MAM College tube) on the scheduled date.

Only Vehicles of ROs/AROs/observers/ territorial officers/candidates having identity cards will be allowed to proceed along with their vehicles at the cut off points towards their respective Counting Centres in which they are deployed.

The vehicles coming from Narwal / Railway Station towards Dogra Chowk shall be diverted from B.R Ambedkar Chowk towards Asia crossing for their onward journey.

Narwal/ Railway Station bound vehicles shall opt. Gujjar Nagar Bridge for their destination.

Gandhi Nagar/ Shastri Nagar, Trikuta Nagar/Samba-Kathua Bound Vehicles shall be diverted via Fly-Over from Bikram Chowk

For any traffic related assistance, Traffic Control Unit contacted on 0191-2459048, 94191-47732, 0191-2740550.

Tight security arrangements...

the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were held in as many phases -- April 19, April 26, May 13, May 20 and May 25.

Ahead of the counting of votes, the Returning Officers of the constituencies have held meetings with contesting candidates, election agents and representatives of political parties contesting in each of the Lok Sabha seats to familiarise them with the standard procedure of counting process prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The returning officer informed the participants about the sequence and procedures of the counting, including handling of EVMs, VVPATs, and the process of the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).

An official spokesman said regular announcements would be made through the public address system at the counting hall on the counting day.

There are 66 candidates in the fray for the three Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir valley. Among the key candidates for the three seats are president of PDP Mehbooba Mufti, vice president of National Conference Omar Abdullah, separatist turned mainstream politician Sajad Gani Lone and former MIA Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail in a UAPA case.

While Mufti is up against prominent Gujjar and National Conference leader Mian Altaf Ahmad in Anantnag-Rajouri seat, Abdullah, Lone and Rashid are locked in a virtual triangular contest for the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat.

In the prestigious Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, both National Conference and the PDP have fielded young faces in Aga Roohullah and Waheed Para respectively.

Kashmir valley has witnessed record turnout in these Lok Sabha polls with more than 50 per cent of the electorate exercising their franchise.

Count of postal ballots...

it will start first, no doubt about it. After half-an-hour we start the EVM count. So, there are three countings which are happening simultaneously -- it happened in the 2019 elections, it happened in all the assembly polls held thereafter. It happened yesterday also in case of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim assembly (vote count). We can't change anything mid course. Why can't we change, because it is compliant with the rules," he said.

He said the postal ballot count and then the EVM count and finally the marching of VVPT slips with EVM results will continue.

In majority of the booths, the number of postal ballot is less. It will automatically end first, he pointed out.

Since 2019, VVPAT (paper-trail machine) slips from five randomly selected polling stations per assembly constituency (or segment in cases of Lok Sabha seats) are matched with the EVM count for greater transparency.

DM Jammu issues...

or big gatherings within a radius of 100 Meters from the counting centres; Bursting and throwing crackers on the roads and at public places on the day of counting."

Further the order stated that no victory procession/rallies or any sort of other rallies/procession by any candidate/political parties shall be allowed without prior permission of the undersigned.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect and remain in force till 5th June, 2024. This order shall be applicable within the jurisdiction of District Jammu."

Key LeT 'commander'...

two terrorists. Riyaz Dar had joined the Lashker-e-Taiba in 2014 and had closely worked with slain Pakistani terrorists Abu Dujana and Abu Ismail. He had participated in many terror-related activities.

While Riyaz, designated as an A++ terrorist, carried a cash reward of above Rs 10 lakh, Rayees Dar was categorised as 'A' carrying a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh.

This is the second anti-terror operation in South Kashmir in less than four weeks.

On May 7, the police achieved a major success after they gunned down Basit Dar, self-styled commander of the banned The Resistance Front (TRF) terror group, a shadow group of Lashker-e-Taiba.

He and another terrorist, Momeen, were killed in an encounter in Kulgam's Redwani village. Both were involved in 18 terror-related cases which included targeting of minorities and police personnel.

Fire engulfs forest...

significant forest damage, the officials said.

A school shed in the Jallas area also suffered damage. Fire and emergency services responded promptly, mobilising teams to contain and extinguish the blazes, they said.

In Kathua district, forest fires were reported in the Ramkote and Basholi areas. Massive flames also erupted in the Ramnagar forest division of Udhampur district, which has since been controlled without any casualties, they said.

A large fire erupted in the Ragoora forest area near the outskirts of Jammu city, spreading across vast tracts of land. The fire has been doused, they said. No casualties have been reported so far.

CS reviews preparations...

various aspects of SASB-2024, including registration for Yatra, service providers, Yatra camps, langar services, provision for various facilities among other things.

It was informed in the meeting that registration of Pilgrims for the Yatra has commenced from 15th April 2024 through both offline (banks) and online mode. Besides, the RFID cards will be issued to each Yatri only after successful e-KYC and no yatri shall be allowed to embark on Yatra without a valid RFID card.

The Chief Secretary asked for completion of all the pending works with various departments before beginning of the annual yatra without compromising on the quality. He exhorted upon the concerned officers to visit the ongoing sites regularly to ensure timely completion of ongoing development projects.

He also reviewed the status of up-gradation of yatra tracks including Rangamohr- Baltal /Domel to Holy Cave and Chandanwaari to Holy Cave. He directed for ensuring widening of the walking tracks/passages besides raising the railing and retaining walls. He directed the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to make adequate provision of basic facilities like public conveniences, water and electricity supply, langars, registration and medical care enroute National Highways in their respective divisions.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the operation of works to ensure that all quality parameters are being adhered to. He further asked them to oversee the arrangements being put in place in the transit camps along the Yatra route particularly at Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Ramban, Baltal and Chandanwari. He also stressed on the divisional administration to ensure augmentation of lodgement centres commensurate to their optimum carrying capacity right from Lakhampur to Baltal/Nunwan well before start of Yatra.

Regarding the provision of sanitary and environmentally safe facilities for scientific waste disposal, RDD along with H&UDD were directed to ensure adequate arrangements for sanitation during the Yatra. Jal Shakti department shall ensure that requisite provisions for adequate water supply at various camps and enroute Holy Cave Shrine is in place well ahead of onset of the yatra.

The Chief Secretary directed the Health and Medical Education department to ensure that adequate healthcare facilities and requisite upgradation thereof at various camps and enroute is made in line with directions issued in this regard from time to time. He asked the Power Development Department to ensure adequate provisioning of electricity at all Yatra camps and enroute Yatra 2024 with optimum wattage along with arrangements for installation of lightening conductors at upper camps, LED lights, illuminating towers at various locations.

It was informed that Indian Meteorological Department would ensure that requisite measures required for effective weather forecasting are put in place in time. They were also asked to ensure timely issuance of weather forecasts and it's effective dissemination through Information and Public Relations Department and other means of communication.

The Chief Secretary directed the Information Department to install adequate number of public address systems/hoardings/banners at all Yatra camps/ various locations enroute/lodgement centres for the Yatra. He also impressed upon them to use their social media handles besides other communication methods to update the concerned about the weather forecasts and other relevant information on real time basis.

He asked the Fire & Emergency Service Department to make arrangements of requisite fire fighting equipment at all locations including camps/lodgement centres/Langer sites/tents and shop areas along with conduct of fire safe audit well before commencement of Yatra 2024.

The Chief Secretary issued directions to other concerned to ensure that all the required arrangements are put in place well in advance so that pilgrims have a comfortable and safe journey towards the revered Shrine.

FIR lodged against...

with legal action to follow under relevant laws.

The injured passengers are currently receiving treatment at SDH Akhnoor, where they are being provided with proper medical care.

Gangster slapped with...

PIT NDPS. The frozen properties include a piece of land at village Chak Jaralan, a commercial structure at village Chak Chua and his personal vehicle.



The properties were prima facie acquired from the proceeds of illicit trafficking in Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances by him, the spokesperson said.

LS poll counting...

to the NDA and rejection of the opposition, and held a meeting with top officials on the "new government's agenda" for the first 100 days.

The results are also expected to spell out the people's verdict on the fate of regional stalwarts like Sharad Pawar and Udhav Thackeray, whose parties have joined hands with the BJP and who have run an intense campaign to win over people's support for their factions.

The verdict will also be out on a number of Union ministers, including Piyush Goyal, Bhupender Yadav, Sarbananda Sonowal and Dharmendra Pradhan, all Rajya Sabha members asked by the BJP to contest the polls, and former chief ministers, such as the BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Basavaraj Bommai, Trivendra Singh Rawat and the Congress's Digvijay Singh and Bhupesh Baghel.

Besides Modi, who contested the election from Varanasi for a third straight term, senior members of his cabinet, such as Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, are in the fray, and the margins of their win will be watched out for as well.

NHAI's revised toll...

road journeys costlier for people," said Ankur Saxena, an advertising professional who frequently travels through Delhi-Lucknow route.

The toll fee is revised annually, taking into accounts the changes in the wholesale price index (CPI)-based inflation.

There are around 855 user fee plazas on the national highway network on which user fee is levied as per the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.

Out of these, around 675 are public-funded fee plazas and 180 are operated by concessionaires.

JSLC's Ranbir Canal Park serves as refreshing retreat amid scorching heat

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: : People from all walks of life-young children, elderly couples, fitness enthusiasts and casual strollers are enjoying the cool breeze and the lush green surroundings at Ranbir canal park developed by Jammu Smart City under Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA).

Under the ambitious Jammu Smart City initiative, the Blue Green project of the Ranbir Canal has transformed it into a vibrant community space, ushering in a new era of urban rejuvenation.

As residents and visitors flock to these scenic spots, the true value of these projects, virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, comes to life.

The first segment, stretching from BSF Paloura to Shakti Nagar Bridge, has become a bustling hub of activity. The landscape lawns, adorned with vibrant flowers and well-manicured grass, provide a perfect spot for picnics and relaxation. Lower deck areas offer tranquil spaces for meditation and yoga, where the sound of flowing water enhances the sense of peace.

A 2.80-metre-wide sandstone path meanders along the canal, ideal for joggers and walkers seeking a scenic route.

"I walk here every morning," says Anjali, a local resident. "The new path is so smooth and beautiful it makes my morning routine a joy."

Seating benches are strategically placed throughout the area, offering rest spots for the elderly, while ample parking ensures accessibility for all.

As dusk falls, the decorative lights illuminate the walkway, creating a magical ambience.

"The lights are wonderful," remarks Rajesh, who often



visits with his family. "They make the evenings feel special, and we love coming here after dinner." The new footpaths on the left side of the canal provide safe and convenient passage, further enhancing the area's appeal.

Further downstream, from Shakti Nagar to Pawan Ice Cream, the second phase of the project shines brightly. This segment features improved access points, pergola seating areas buzzing with conversations, and additional landscape lawns. The wide sandstone path continues, encouraging morning walks and outdoor activities, while seating benches, parking spaces and toilet facilities make it a complete package for family outings.

The canal parapet, clad in stone and equipped with new railings, provides safety without compromising aesthetics. Pedestrian bridges connect both sides of the canal, fostering community interaction. "These bridges are fantastic," says Suresh, a local shop owner.

"They connect us all and make it easy for everyone to enjoy both sides of the canal." Decorative lighting ensures that the canal remains a welcoming space even after sunset, creating a glowing ribbon of light that invites exploration.

A standout feature of the project is the children's

park, ingeniously constructed using waste materials. This eco-friendly play area not only provides endless fun for kids but also stands as a testament to sustainable development.

The park is equipped with water ATMs, toilet blocks, and a variety of engaging play structures, all made from recycled materials. "It's amazing to see something beautiful and useful made from waste," says Meena, a mother of two. "My kids love playing here, and I feel good knowing it's environmentally friendly."

The transformation of the Ranbir Canal under the Jammu Smart City initiative has not only rejuvenated an important urban waterway but also created a beloved communal space.

"This place has become the heart of our community," says Anil, a retired teacher. "It's wonderful to see people from all walks of life coming together, enjoying the beauty and tranquility of the canal."

The information provided here is for informational purposes only. While we strive to ensure accuracy, we do not guarantee it. Users should verify any details independently before relying on them. We are not liable for any loss or inconvenience resulting from the use of this information.

JKTJAC honours Padma Shri Award-winning personalities

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKT-JAC) organised a grand function at Udhampur under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Udhampur Lekh Raj Parihar to honour the Padma Shri Award-winning personalities Shiv Dut Nirmohi (retired professor) who won the prestigious Civilian Award in 2020 in the field of Literature and Education and Ramalo Ram (retired ZEO) who won this award in 2024 .

Lauding the selfless services given by both Nirmohi ji and Ramalo Ram Vinod Sharma said that these sons of soil have brought a laurel and made every resident of Jammu and Kashmir feel proud.

He said that both these personalities are source of inspiration to the future generations.

Speaking on the occasion Sh Nirmohi ji and Sh Ramalo Ram ji shared their



JKTJAC members honouring Padma Shri Award-winning personalities Shiv Dut Nirmohi and Ramalo Ram.

experiences with the teachers and encouraged them to contribute their efforts for the welfare of society.

On the occasion both dignitaries were presented momentos and bouquets besides garlands and pagris .

Others who also share their views on the occasion were Sham Sharma, Sukhdev Singh Sumbria, Sukesh khajuria, Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Chain Singh, Ravinder Singh, Rathore, Shamsher Singh, Sandeep Sharma, Balvinder Singh, Bhushan Khajuria, Rakesh Rajput, Amit Sharma, Sahil Singh, Vipen Raina, Anil Sharma, Manoj

Sharma, Amit Gupta, Durv Singh, Sudesh Azad, Swarn Singh, Suresh Sharma, Man Chand Khajuria, Pankaj Thakur, Prashant Sharma, Shila Sharma, Komal Sharma, Sonika Sharma, Vijay Kumari, Mohd Mustafa, Ajay Thakur, Ajit Singh, Ranjit Singh, Puma Chand, Madan Bhardwaj, Ashok Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar, Rakesh kumar, Som Raj, Raj Pathania, Mohd Saleem, Pawan Sharma, Amit Sharma, Romesh Kumar, Deep Singh, Narinder Singh, Sandeep Singh, Ajay Kumar, Divakar Sharma, Vijay Kumar and others.

Police organises anti drugs awareness rally

STATE TIMES NEWS

BASOHLI: J&K Police organized an Anti-Drugs Awareness Rally in Basholi town today, aiming to educate the public about the dangers and societal impact of drug abuse. Students from various local schools actively participated, joining hands to spread the message against drug use.

The rally was led by SDPO Basholi and SHO PS Basholi along with other police officials, who emphasized the importance of collective efforts in combating the drug menace. Participants enthusiastically chanted slogans such as "Nasha Chodo, Jeevan Modo" (Quit Drugs, Turn Towards Life) and "Say No To Drugs," resonating the urgent need for a drug-free



society.

Starting from the Ramlila Ground, the rally moved through the Old Bazaar, Bus Stand, and ADC office, before culminating back at the Ramlila Ground Basohli. Upon conclusion, refreshments were served among all participants.

This initiative by the J&K

Police underscores their commitment to addressing the critical issue of drug abuse and its detrimental effects on society. The active involvement of students and the local populace highlighted the collective resolve to fight this menace and promote a healthier, drug-free lifestyle.