

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! 21 Hindus among...

other Hindu and Sikh communities," he said, in a written reply to a question. He said no pilgrim has been killed during this period. The minister said the government has a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and the security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir. He said jobs to the Kashmiri Pandits were given under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP). Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated on August 5, 2019 and the state was bifurcated into two Union territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Presidential election: Counting...

clearly stacked in favour of Murmu, who, if elected, will be the first tribal woman to occupy the top constitutional post in the country. Kovind's tenure is ending on July 24 and the new president will take oath on July 25. With ballot boxes from all states having reached the Parliament House, poll officials are ready for the counting in room number 63, the strongroom of Parliament where the boxes are guarded behind a round the clock security. Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody, who is the Chief Returning Officer for the poll, will oversee the counting Thursday, the result of which is likely to be declared by the evening. Mody will first brief on the poll trends after all votes of MPs have been counted, and then again after votes of 10 states in alphabetical order have been counted.

Sources said he will brief once more on the poll trends after votes of 20 states have been counted, and then finally declare the result after the total counting. All ballot boxes from state assemblies had reached the Parliament's strongroom on Tuesday evening and have been locked there since. The ballot boxes had been flown into the national capital as 'Mr Ballot Box' from across the states. 'Mr Ballot Box' came seated in the front row of aircraft under the watchful gaze of the Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) of their respective states. The Election Commission had on Monday posted photographs of the sealed ballot boxes onboard flights accompanied by AROs. According to the EC, each ballot box was issued an e-ticket under the name 'Mr Ballot Box'.

Polling for the presidential election was held between 10am to 5pm Monday at 31 locations including the Parliament house and 30 centres within state legislative assemblies.

There are also reports of cross-voting in favour of Murmu in a number of states. There is no whip issued to members in the presidential poll. MPs of both, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, except nominated MPs, and all MLAs in legislative assembly in all states act as electors in the presidential poll. A total of 4,809 electors, comprising 776 MPs and 4,033 elected MLAs, are entitled to vote in the election, but nominated MPs and MLAs, and Members of Legislative Council are not. Over 99 per cent of the total electors had cast their ballot in the poll that took place Monday, according to the Election Commission. Eight MPs, including BJP MPs Sunny Deol and Sanjay Dhotre, were among those who missed casting their votes. Actor-politician Deol missed voting since he is abroad for medical treatment, while Dhotre gave it a pass since he was in the ICU. Two MPs each from BJP and Shiv Sena, and one each from the BSP, Congress, SP, and AIMIM missed voting in the Monday polls. Kovind had become the President after polling 7,02,044 votes out of a total of 10,69,358 votes, while his rival Meira Kumar polled only 3,67,314 votes.

Mukhtar posted as...

has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department. He shall also look after the work of Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (SMRTC), in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Tazayun Mukhtar, JKAS, Joint Director, Industries and Commerce (S&M), Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir while Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, JKAS, Joint Director, Industries and Commerce (Development), Kashmir, shall hold the charge of the post of Joint Director, Industries and Commerce (S&M), Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

13 structures washed...

strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened this afternoon following a brief blockade caused by mudslides at several places in Ramban district triggered by heavy rains, officials said. The blockade had brought hundreds of vehicles, including a convoy of Amarnath pilgrims, to a halt, they said. Ramban Deputy Superintendent of Police Pradeep Kumar Sen said heavy rains on early Wednesday morning led to mudslides and shooting stones in many areas. However, men and machines were deployed soon and the highway was cleared of debris. The stranded vehicles have been allowed to proceed to their destinations, officials said.

tions, officials said.

Asstt Engineer RDD...

Department (REW), Sub-Division Awantipora, Pulwama, FIR No 13/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Anantnag and investigations started," the official added. He further informed that a trap team constituted, which caught the accused official red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 2,000 from complainant. He was arrested on the spot and bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses, said official, adding that further investigation is going on.

Dream of J&K...

out of which 14,867 MW has already been identified by Central Electricity Authority. The J&K is all set to double the Hydropower Generation Capacity in next 3 years from existing capacity of 3500 MW. In this direction, 5 Mega Hydro-power projects viz Ratle (824 MW), Kirthai-II (930 MW) Sawalakote (1856 MW), Dulhasti-Stage II (258 MW) and Uri-I Stage-II (240 MW), having total capacity of 4134 MW have been taken-up for execution in collaboration with NHPC. The likely investment in these projects is Rs 34,882 crore and on completion will make J&K power surplus. Notably, Jammu and Kashmir achieved a major milestone under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana 'Saubhagya' with the Union Territory accomplishing the 100 percent target of rural electrification. The J&K administration has proactively worked in ensuring electrification to every village which is visible from the fact that almost 3,57,405 households have been electrified in whole of the UT. J&K has also received a reward of Rs100 crore from the Government of India for achieving the target of 100% electrification ahead of the timeline. The J&K Power Development Department is setting new standards in project, planning and execution. These measures will not only resolve the power crisis during peak season but will also open a host of employment opportunities by meeting the growing demand for the opening of new industries in UT. Power Department introduced Feeder Data Monitoring through state of the art E-support systems which will help in direct access/ monitoring of AT&C losses and power reliability indices for all feeders.

CS launches online...

Payments and Accounting, Framing of Project Proposal & Estimations, AA/TS,SOR, Human Resource Management, Project Execution & Progress, Quality and Monitoring, Safety and Audit and Contractor Management System. Dr Mehta enquired about the scope of the project and process flow in billing and accounting, safety audits, SOPs etc. He was informed about the key features viz online bill submission, Processing and Disbursement of payments and subsequent online verification of bills with respect to AA /TS /Quality etc. It was told that the system would also provide real-time updated status of bills at various levels, online tracking of bills submitted by contractors, besides integration with BEAMS for fund position and integration with PAYSYS for instant and transparent payments, etc. The Chief Secretary stated that contractors will now be assured of transparent processing of their payment requests which would fundamentally change the work culture in the UT and significantly reduce subjectivity in payment requests. He supplemented several suggestions and added that features like contractor's delivery pattern and past record should also be added in the system so that tendered amount, allotted amount and to whom allotted etc must be there to ensure complete transparency in the billing system. While complementing the department for the initiative, Dr Mehta said that OMS is an excellent and right step towards the transparency in billing system of PWD works. He said that this step would go a long way in making the working of the department smoother, effective, and time bound.

434 new COVID...

district administrations Baramulla and Kupwara have also made wearing of face masks mandatory at all public places across in view of the surge in Covid-19 cases. Meanwhile, Ladakh's COVID tally increased to 28,670 with 22 fresh cases, officials said. All the fresh cases were reported from Leh, they said. So far, 228 people have succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, according to the officials. The number of active cases in Ladakh stands at 92, the officials said. As many as 304 samples were tested for COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 223 samples from Leh and 47 from Kargil were found to be negative, they said. Five more people recovered from the viral disease in Leh. With this, the total number of recoveries in Ladakh increased to 28,350, they said.

Sonia to appear...

the protests. Similar protests were held when her son and former party president Rahul Gandhi was quizzed by the agency in June in the case. Sources said party leaders including MPs will march towards the Enforcement Directorate office and the Delhi Congress will stage a protest march outside Raj Bhawan here. A meeting of senior party leaders was held at the residence of Mallikarjun

Kharge to chalk out the party's strategy for dealing with the "misuse" of the ED against party chief Sonia Gandhi by the Modi government, they said. "The entire Congress family is standing firmly with its President Sonia Gandhi and tomorrow a protest against the dictatorial rule of BJP will be lodged in the whole country," the party said on its Twitter handle. Congress leaders and workers will also be staging such protests outside offices of the Enforcement Directorate in different state capitals, they said. In the national capital, sources said, the Congress may also stage a protest along with leaders of other opposition parties inside the Parliament complex. Congress members in both houses may also protest inside both houses of Parliament. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the entire Congress party will demonstrate across the country in "a most telling manner" against what he described as political vendetta. "Tomorrow as the political vendetta unleashed by the Modi-Shah duo against our top leadership continues, the entire Congress party across the country will demonstrate its collective solidarity with Smt. Sonia Gandhi in a most telling manner," Ramesh said on Twitter. Congress leaders and workers, including party MPs, had protested and courted arrest when Rahul Gandhi appeared before the ED in the same case and was questioned for several days. Some other Congress leaders including Mallikarjun Kharge have also appeared before the probe agency earlier, in the same case. Congress leader Pawan Khara alleged that the Modi government was misusing probe agencies for political purposes and had "created a tradition of targeting our top leadership". "We will oppose at all levels, inside and outside Parliament against this kind of 'vendetta politics' unleashed by the Modi-Shah duo. Protests against this kind of dirty politics will be done all over the country," said Khara. The police have already put up barricades around the Congress office on Akbar Road anticipating a repeat of the protests. The last time when Rahul Gandhi was questioned, the police had made elaborate arrangements. A large number of party leaders were detained and taken to far away locations and were released only at midnight. Congress MPs had raised strong objections and complained to the President as well as the Vice President and Lok Sabha Speaker against the police's alleged "high-handedness".

LG to review...

the health sector, enhance the educational seats and create employment opportunities for thousands of medical professionals. The Lt Governor further called for identifying the measures that can be taken to improve J&K's Ease of Doing Business ranking. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary instructed for taking feedback from the users regarding online services being provided by Industries & Commerce department and also advised for linking these online services with e-Unnat and integrating them with RAS as well. The Lt Governor will be chairing a meeting every month to review the progress of the Industries & Commerce Department. Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department gave a detailed briefing on the overall working of the Industries & Commerce department. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Anoo Malhotra, Director, I&C, Jammu; Smita Sethi, Managing Director, SIDCO, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director, I&C Kashmir, and other senior officers attended the meeting. Dr Devansh Yadav, Managing Director, JKTPO also joined the meeting through virtual mode.

Over 4,300 pilgrims...

they said. Officials said 1,846 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 72 vehicles followed by the second convoy of 94 vehicles carrying 2,509 pilgrims for Pahalgam. With this, a total of 1,20,011 pilgrims have left from the Jammu base camp for the Valley since June 29. Over 2 lakh pilgrims have so far offered their prayers at the cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said. The 43-day-long pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas commenced on June 30 from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The pilgrimage is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. A total of 32 people, mostly pilgrims, have died during on-going Amarnath yatra till now, excluding the 15 pilgrims who died in the flashfloods at the cave shrine on July 1.

18 injured in...

were injured after a goods carrier fell off the road at Khorinar along the Line of Control (LoC) after its driver lost control of the vehicle, the police said. The injured, including the driver of the vehicle, were immediately rescued by Army personnel from a nearby Rashtriya Rifles unit and administered first aid before being taken for further treatment, they said. The Army's prompt response and help were highly appreciated by the family members of the injured and locals, they said.

BJP works on agenda of development: Shivdev

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To boost election campaign of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu North Assembly segment, an office of Jammu North Mandal of party was opened at Janipur on Wednesday. The party office was inaugurated by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President (Rural), Rajinder Singh Chib in presence of former MLA and senior BJP leader, Shivdev Singh. A number of party activists and supporters were present on the occasion to show their zeal for working in the Assembly polls.

While speaking on the occasion, Rajinder Singh Chib said that time has come to give a befitting reply to the forces, who are least bothered about development of J&K. He said that from last 70 years, the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir was under a deep slumber of darkness but BJP is committed to take J&K out of the era of darkness and take it to new



BJP leaders Rajinder Singh Chib & Shivdev Singh inaugurating party office.

heights of achievements. "We open this office in order to discuss and listen to grievances of public under one roof," he said, urging people to visit the office for highlighting their issues, as BJP leaders are always ready to help them. Shivdev Singh said that BJP is the only party who works on agenda of development and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown that BJP does not get distracted by its development agenda, at any cost. He further appealed to the gathering to promote the vision of Prime Minister for J&K and its people. "BJP has achieved the

distinction of being the largest political party and more and more people are getting associated with it every day. It becomes important on part of party to provide a permanent and easily accessible place to public so that they can directly interact with party leadership," he added. Prominent among others present on the occasion included BJP Kisan Cell Leader Omi Khajuria, Corporators Surinder Sharma, Tara Chand and Kapil Singh Chib, Sarpanches Kaka Singh, Kuljeet Singh, Pawan Singh and Joginder Sharma and Gilli Manhas.

Crime Branch grills Ex-MLA & Apni party leader in forgery case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Crime Branch wing of J&K Police on Wednesday grilled former-MLA and Apni Party leader Shoaib Nabi Lone for his alleged involvement in a forgery case. The complaint was filed by one Harmeet Singh, brother of senior PDP leader Dr Harabakhsh Singh. The case was filed regarding forgery and criminal conspiracy by Crime Branch against former legislator Shoaib Lone, who was earlier Congress' District President Baramulla but had left the party and is now a leader of J&K Apni Party. As per the complaint, Shoaib Lone along with one Company Secretary Sauleheen had fraudulently transferred his 65000 shares, as he was one of the share-holders of CA coldstore Ms Alpine Fresh Pvt Ltd along with Lone and others, thereby causing him a loss of Rs 70 lakh. After preliminary investigation, offences punishable under Sections 420 and 120B RPC were proved against Shoaib Lone and CS Sauleheen, after which FIR No-39/2019 was registered at Police Station Crime Branch Jammu.

Pawan Kumar appointed as ED IRCON

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pawan Kumar has been appointed as Executive Director, Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu project, IRCON. Pawan Kumar, formerly on deputation with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), has been selected for deputation to IRCON International Limited as Executive Director; Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu Project, for a period of seven years from his initial period of deputation with DFCCIL/RVNI that is with effect from September 16, 2016, to September 15, 2023. He is an Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer.

DGP compliments police officers, personnel for contribution in successful anti-terrorism operations

Chairs Police Establishment Board meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Dilbag Singh complimented the police officers and personnel for their contribution in the successful anti-terrorism operations in the J&K. DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh on Wednesday chaired the Police Establishment Board meeting at Police Headquarters here. The meeting was attended by Spl. DGs R.R Swain, A.K Choudhary, Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K, H. K. Lohia, ADGsP S. J. M. Gillani, Dr. S. D. Singh Jamwal, M. K. Sinha, Sunil Kumar, Danesh Rana, Vijay Kumar and AIG Personnel PHQ, Ramesh Angral and officers of personnel section of Police Headquarters. The DGP complimented the officers and personnel



DGP Dilbag Singh and others during a programme.

for their contribution in the anti-terrorism operations which resulted in a number of successful operations in which scores of terrorists including hardcore and foreign terrorists were eliminated and many surrendered;

some of them during live encounters. The role of personnel and SPOs on various fronts across the UT was discussed threadbare and accordingly decisions with regard to their conversion and out of turn promotions were taken. Though some cases were sent back to the concerned for re-examination. During the discussion, the DGP directed the field officers to look personally into the citations and recommendations for medals, out of turn promotions and conversion so that deserving personnel are duly rewarded as per their role and contribution. The participating officers submitted a number of suggestions which were discussed and DGP directed for following them on merit and as quick as possible.

Secretary Sports Council felicitates Wushu medalists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Secretary JK Sports Council congratulated Sub-Junior wushu medalists, Taramun Solihah Wani, Silver medalist, and Reyhan Bin Riyaz, Bronze medalist, from Baramulla in presence of Joint director of Youth services and sports. Secretary JKSC, Nuzhat Gul congratulated UT J&K Wushu kids for the splendid performance in the 22nd Sub-Junior National Wushu championship at Mandi (HP) from 9th to 14th 2022 in which J&K bagged 14 medals (03 Silver and 11 Bronze medals). Nuzhat Gul appreciated the efforts of Wushu Association of J&K and providing the platform for the



Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul felicitating Sub-Junior Wushu medalists.

wushu athletes across the UT of J&K. Pertinent to mention here that

around 1200 Athletes from 35 units of the Wushu Association of India partic-

ipated in the National Championship. Nuzhat Gul also congratulated the Certificate course holders namely Mohammad Maqsood Rather, Rashid Bashir and Maqsood Ali who have recently passed out from the NS NIS with "A" Grade. The Dronacharya Awardee Kuldeep Handoo also thanked the Secretary for appreciating Wushu Kids for outstanding performance in the national championship. He also thanked for the immense support and requested her for the establishment of the State Academy for Wushu so that the players can bring the name and fame for the country and the J&K at National and international Level.