

!! 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 destination.

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, Sarpanch Kaka Singh, Kuljeet Singh, Pawan Singh and Joginder Sharma and Gilli Manhas.

JEE-Main second session postponed, to begin from July 25**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The second session of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main has been postponed and will now begin from July 25 instead of July 21, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Wednesday.

The NTA did not cite any reason for the postponement of the crucial exam.

"JEE-Main's second session is going to be commenced from July 25 for 6.29 lakh candidates at different centres located in approximately 500 cities including 17 cities outside India. The admit cards will be available for download from Thursday," the NTA said.

Earlier, the entrance exam was scheduled to be held from July 21 to July 30.

The NTA conducted the first session of the exam from June 23 to June 29 and the result was declared on July 12.

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 'Saubhagy' 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

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 Shoib Nabi Lone for his alleged involvement in a forgery case.

The complaint was filed by one Harmeet Singh, brother of senior PDP leader Dr Harabaksh Singh.

The case was filed regarding forgery and criminal conspiracy by Crime Branch against former legislator Shoib 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, Shoib Lone along with one Company Secretary Sauleen 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 Shoib Lone and CS Sauleen, 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/RVNL that is with effect from September 16, 2016, to September 15, 2023. He is an Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer.

The DGP complimented the officers and personnel

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.

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