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Murmu scripts history; becomes India's first tribal President

Crosses majority mark to win Prez poll; Sinha congratulates her

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu on Thursday emerged victorious in the presidential election by bagging a total of 6,76,803 votes over her rival Yashwant Sinha who polled 3,80,177 votes.

Making an official announcement after the fourth round of counting, Returning Officer P C Mody declared Murmu as the winner with 64.03 per cent votes. Sinha got 36 per cent of the valid votes polled.

Murmu bagged votes from a total of 2824 electors, including 540 MPs, while her rival Sinha got votes of 1,877 electors including 208 MPs in the election.

There were a total of 4809 electors, including 776 MP with total vote value of 10,72,377, but votes of 53 electors including the maximum of 15 MPs were declared invalid in the election held on July 18.

"In my capacity as



Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulating President Droupadi Murmu at her residence on Thursday.

Returning Officer, I declare Droupadi Murmu as President of India," said Mody while declaring the final result of counting.

Among states Murmu got the maximum votes from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh while Sinha's tally was highest in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Sources said 17 MPs from opposition parties have cross-voted in her support.

All MLAs from Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim voted in Murmu's favour, while in

Arunachal Pradesh she got votes of all legislators except for four and all of all MLA except one in Nagaland. Sinha did not get a single vote from assemblies in Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland and Sikkim.

Murmu got maximum votes of Parliamentarians and least in Kerala where she got only one vote.

Officials said the NDA candidate received two-thirds of the votes in all the earlier three rounds of counting.

Conceding defeat, Opposition candidate Sinha

Tally boosted by cross-voting from Opposition members

NEW DELHI: A sizeable number of MLAs from across state assemblies cross-voted in support of President-elect Droupadi Murmu, defying their parties' stated support to Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha, sources said on Thursday.

BJP sources said around 125 MLAs from different assemblies cross-voted in her support. Counting of votes also suggests that Murmu was the beneficiary of cross-voting from 17 MPs.

Assam, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh assemblies witnessed a significant number of Opposition MLAs voting for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's candidate.

Around 22 MLAs in Assam and 20 in Madhya Pradesh assemblies are likely to have cross-voted. Six opposition MLAs from Bihar and Chhattisgarh, four from Goa and 10 from Gujarat may also have voted for Murmu.

Murmu's tribal background appeared to have drawn support from Opposition MLAs from Jharkhand too, where the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Moreha had already announced support to her.

Set to be India's first tribal and also the youngest president, Murmu received maximum votes

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congratulated Murmu and said that every Indian hopes that as the 15th President she functions as the "custodian of the Constitution" without fear or favour.

In a statement, Sinha thanked the leaders of the

Opposition parties for choosing him as their consensus candidate in this election.

"I also thank all members of the Electoral College who voted for me. I accepted the offer of Opposition

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COVID: J&K reports 505 new cases, Ladakh 22

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir continued to see a substantial rise in new Covid cases as 505 fresh infections surfaced on Thursday, taking the infection tally to 4,58,456, officials said.

No fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, they said.

Of the new cases, 277 were reported from Jammu and 228 from Kashmir, officials said.

The death toll due to the virus stands at 4,761.

There are 2,077 active Covid cases in the Union Territory while the number of recoveries has reached 4,51,618, officials said.

There are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory, they said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 22 fresh cases of Coronavirus, thereby increasing the total COVID-19 tally to 28,692, officials said.

All positive cases were reported from Leh.

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 officials said the number of active

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SEC discusses modalities of ULB bye-elections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: State Election Commissioner (SEC), KK Sharma on Thursday held a meeting with Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department (H&DD), Dheeraj Gupta.

Threadbare discussions were held on constitution

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Three labourers killed in wall collapse at Pulwama

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three labourers were killed after a wall collapsed at a brick kiln in Pulwama district, officials said.

A wall collapsed inside a brick kiln at Ukhoo in Pulwama, trapping three labourers under the debris, they said.

The officials said all the three men died on the spot.

They were identified as Lukman Khan, Kalbe Khan and Raj Dev, all residents of Uttar Pradesh.

Citizens dying due to hunger despite our development: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Citizens are dying due to hunger despite our development, the Supreme Court said Thursday while asking the state governments to work out modalities to ensure that maximum migrant workers are given rations.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna was hearing a case in which the top court in May 2020 had taken cognisance of the problems and miseries of migrant labourers.

"The Food and civil services department in each state must have a target of how many ration cards they are

going to register. This has to be worked locally as each state will have its own criteria. There must be a fixed criterion.

"Ultimately, the aim is that no citizen should die of hunger in India. Unfortunately, this (starvation deaths) is happening despite our development, citizens are dying of hunger and lack of food. In villages, they tie their stomach tightly so that they do not feel hungry. I know it. They tie their stomachs with a sari or some other cloth and drink water and sleep. Children and elders do it because they

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Amid heavy rains, 4,700 pilgrims leave for Amarnath from Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Braving heavy rains, a fresh batch of over 4,703 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said.

The pilgrims left in a convoy of 156 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Security Force (CRPF), they said.

The officials said 2,001 pilgrims headed for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 54 vehicles, followed by the second convoy of 102 vehicles carrying 2,702 pilgrims to Pahalgam.

With this, a total of 1,24,714 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the Valley since June 29, according to the officials.

Heavy rains have lashed the Jammu region since last night, triggering apprehension about landslides, mudslides and



flash floods.

The 43-day Amarnath Yatra to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas commenced on

June 30. So far, over 2.20 lakh pilgrims have offered prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice Shiv lingam, the

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Extortionists in police custody at Beerwah.

gation was initiated.

Preliminary investigations revealed that, the modus operandi of the gang was to call some person(s) to their home and then put him

under threat by pointing knives or weapons towards him and rob him of his belongings. Also, the gang used to capture a video of the victim with a lady in compro-

mising position, who happens to be wife of one of the gang members and then start demanding money in lieu of threat of releasing the said video.

After strenuous efforts, Police arrested all the accused persons involved in the crime. They have been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, son of Gh Nabi, resident of Hanjiguru, Rouf Ahmad Dar alias Kantroo, son of Ab Rashid, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan alias Jamal, son of Gh Hassan, both residents of Arizal, Farooq Ahmad Ganai,

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Jammu-Srinagar highway reopens for one-way traffic

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened for one-way traffic on Thursday evening after being closed due to landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in Ramban district, officials said.

Nearly 1,000 vehicles stranded at different points on the highway in the district have been allowed to move towards their respective destinations, they said.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked at Cafeteria Moore, Mehaar,



Chamba Seri, Keela Moode Tunnel, Maroog and Pantiyal in Ramban due to landslides, slush and shooting stones, the officials said.

They said a convoy carry-

ing Amarnath Yatra pilgrims to Kashmir has been stopped at Chanderkoot and the yatrīs will halt for the night at Yatra Niwas there.

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Opposition unity bit of Chimera: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Thursday compared the unity among the opposition parties to Greek mythological character Chimera' and said ultimately they will do what is in their own interest.

His remarks came after the Trinamool Congress -- which had led from the front to unify the opposition for the election to the country's president -- announced that it will abstain from voting for the vice presidential poll.

Opposition unity is a bit of a chimera. Ultimately political parties will do what's in their own interest & that's as it should be. J&K saw this when we were left high & dry by friends in 2019. It's

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LG sets target to enhance home-stay capacities to 25,000 beds by Dec 31

Directs for making tented colonies functional at identified locations in 3 months

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday set the target of enhancing the capacities of home-stays to 25,000 beds by 31st December.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the new initiatives of Tourism Department, here, he directed Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez to submit a report on the number of tourists staying at the existing home-stays.

The Lt Governor sought a detailed report on home-stays, setting up of tented accommodation at major tourist attractions, adventure activities, new trekking routes identified, Border Tourism, Capacity Building Programme at various levels.

While reviewing the measures being taken to promote home-stays in the UT, the chair was informed that around 800 home-stays are registered with the Tourism Department.



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting to review new initiatives of Tourism Department.

Tourism Department was instructed to identify major tourist attractions where tented accommodation can be developed through public-private partnership.

Since home-stays and tented accommodations are becoming popular among the domestic and foreign tourists as well as backpackers, J&K UT government is making efforts to promote tent stay at scenic locations that will deliver rapid growth to the tourism industry, added the Lt Governor.

It was informed that around 30 locations were

already identified and the department was directed to make the tented colonies functional at these locations in the next three months.

Emphasizing the need for making the tourist places more accessible, besides adding major attraction for the tourists, the Lt Governor directed the tourism department to identify such tourist destinations where ropeways can also be developed.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Tourism Department gave a detailed presentation on the Activity Plan for 75

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ED questions Sonia for 2 hours, Cong stages protests

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday questioned Congress chief Sonia Gandhi for over two hours in a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper. The day was a show of strength for the party with street protests and leaders courting arrest across the country.

She has been summoned again on July 25.

Thursday's session of questioning the 75-year-old, who is recovering from Covid, ended on her request after two hours and 15 minutes, officials said. However,



Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the ED told Sonia Gandhi that they had no further questions and she could leave.

Gandhi said she would be willing to respond to any other questions they might have and was ready to

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Online registration for PMSSS opens for academic year 2022-23

Students can register on official website aicte-jk-scholarship-gov.in

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The online registration of Prime Ministers Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) is open for the academic year 2022-23 for students of J&K. The eligible students can register themselves on the official website, aicte-jk-scholarship-gov.in

A special J&K Cell in AICTE deals with implementation of PMSSS in J&K for students to pursue undergraduate studies outside the Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K cell is responsible for proper implementation of the scheme to fulfil the objectives of PMSSS.

AICTE has issued official notification in this regard highlighting details of eligibility criteria, courses, and others have been provided. According to the official noti-

fication, only those students who have passed class 12th from Jammu and Kashmir Board or Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board not earlier than 2020-21 or appeared in 2021-22, can apply for the scholarship.

The scholarship will be provided for courses such as general degree, professional (engineering, nursing, pharmacy, hotel management, architecture etc.), and medical, Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) or equivalent.

Under the scholarship scheme, students will get different amounts of scholarship on the academic fee as well as hostel fee. In case of academic fee, for the general degree courses, students

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 31.3°C Min: 23.9°C

Humidity

Max : 100 Min : 93

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 27.8°C Min: 20.0°C

Humidity

Max : 76 Min: 62

Sunset : 19:37 Hours

Sunrise : 05:40 Hours

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No.: JKB/Recr/2022-1250
Dated:- 20.07.2022

DIP/J-1931-P/22

Sd/-
General Manager-HR