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### Around 25 lakh...

adding the Booth Level Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration officers and District Election Officers have been sensitized to ensure that the final list will be "error free" and will also cover all the eligible voters.

Kumar said there is no need for a person to have a domicile certificate of J&K to become a voter. "An employee, student, a labourer or anyone from outside who is living ordinarily in J&K, can enlist his or her name in the voting list. The documents will be scrutinized by the government officials concerned who will take a decision after being satisfied about the claim."

He said like in the past, many residents of J&K who are working in armed forces and paramilitary forces and are posted outside the Union Territory have an option to get themselves registered as service voters and can avail the facility of postal ballot to register their choice at the time of the elections.

"Likewise those from different parts of the country who are posted here have the option that if they are posted in a peace station they can enlist themselves as voters. Jammu is a peace station and anyone from outside posted in armed forces in the city can avail the option to enlist as a voter," he said.

He said after the delimitation commission submitted its report on May 5 and the union law ministry implemented the report on May 20, the number of assembly seats in J&K increased to 90.

"All the 90 constituencies have witnessed some sort of change... We are presently undertaking mapping of old constituencies with new constituencies and it will be followed by the special summary revision (SSR)," Kumar said, expressing satisfaction over the ongoing pre-SSR activities.

He said 600 polling stations have been added and now the total number of polling stations across Jammu and Kashmir has gone up to 11,370.

Kumar said the commission is planning to undertake door-to-door campaigning and also organize special camps in educational institutions for the awareness of the eligible voters.

The Chief Electoral Officer said provision has been made in the modified registration forms for linking of Aadhaar number with electoral roll data, the objective of which is to establish the identity of electors and authentication of entries in electoral roll.

He said the commission will issue new voter Identity cards which will have new security features.

About Kashmiri migrants residing outside the valley, he said there is already a special provision for such displaced population to enable them to exercise their franchise.

"They (Kashmiri Pandit migrants) are registered as voters in their home constituencies. Special camps are being organized for them at different places including Delhi, Jammu and Udhampur for registration of new voters and all of them will be given the voter ID cards," he said.

He dismissed the notion that Rohingya Muslims, who have taken shelter in Jammu and other parts, can get themselves registered as voters. "We have officers in place and they know their duty."

On the holding of assembly elections, he said the Election Commission of India is the authority which can take a decision on the timing of the polls.

Reacting to the statement of the chief electoral officer, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said, "Is the BJP so insecure about support from genuine voters of J&K that it needs to import temporary voters to win seats?

"None of these things will help the BJP when the people of J&K are given a chance to exercise their franchise," Omar tweeted.

Mufti tweeted, "GOIs (Government of India's) decision to defer polls in J&K preceded by egregious gerrymandering tilting the balance in BJP's favour & now allowing non locals to vote is obviously to influence election results. Real aim is to continue ruling J&K with an iron fist to disempower locals."

J&K Peoples Conference's Sajad Lone said, "This is dangerous. I don't know what they want to achieve. This is much more than a mischief. Democracy is a relic especially in the context of Kashmir. Please remember 1987. We're yet to come out of that. Don't replay 1987. It will be as disastrous."

### Make sporting activities...

targeted for this year:

Sinha urged the J&K Sports Council and Department of Youth Services and Sports to use the power of sports to prevent crime and drug use among youth. Sport has the power to change the society and we must use its unmatched potential, he added.

The Lt Governor also directed the officials to develop facilities for yoga centers and explore the modalities to organize rallies in the districts to promote sports culture among the younger generation at grassroot level.

Analytic view must be taken to identify the employees engaged under sports quota who can contribute towards the development of sports in J&K, added the Lt Governor.

While taking stock of the calendar of activities under 'My Youth My Pride', the Lt Governor was informed that Phase-I of the programme has witnessed the participation of 8,76 lakh youth from across the UT, while 13,75 lakh youth will be engaged in Phase-II.

The chair was informed about the special activities under 'My Youth My Pride' to be organized to commemorate important International days with the targeted engagement of 25,000 youth.

The meeting also discussed the progress made in formulation of merit list for the appointment of outstanding sportspersons, the rewards as per the Sports Policy being extended to the sports persons who have brought laurels to the country and the UT.

The Lt Governor asked Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department to encourage the youth at Higher Education level to participate in different sports disciplines.

On being informed about the ongoing projects under PMDR, JKIDFC, Capex and Khelo India, the Lt Governor asked the officials to identify the projects facing land or other issues so that appropriate action can be taken to resolve the same.

The Lt Governor instructed the Department of Youth Services & Sports to organize sports tournaments in multiple disciplines under LG's Rolling Trophy including Cricket, Football, Volleyball and Hockey, and reward the outstanding players at UT level and District level.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sarmad Hafeez, holding the charge of Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Subash Chander Chhibber, Director Youth Services & Sports; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council and other senior officials attended the meeting.

### Congress got raw...

upper castes, be it Brahmin, Bhoomihar or Rajput, and they are angry with the Congress.

During the allocation of ministerial berths, the Congress should have been aware of its due share based on its strength in the Assembly. "Had that been done, we would have got four ministers and members from the upper castes could have been easily adjusted," Azad said.

The senior Congress leader said the distribution of portfolios has been done without any logic and "it is really surprising that none from the party pressed for an equal share of berths".

Azad's comments came a day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who recently snapped ties with the BJP and joined hands with the RJD and the Congress to form the government, expanded his council of ministers by inducting 31 ministers, including a huge contingent of 16 from key ally RJD.

Of the council of ministers, 11 are from Kumar's JD(U), two from Congress and one from former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM, besides Independent Sumit Kumar Singh.

Kumar and Deputy CM Yadav had been sworn in earlier on August 10.

All the ministers from the JD(U), besides HAM's Suman and Independent Singh, were members in the previous government. The Left is supporting the government from outside.

### Jailed Pak terrorist...

with injured police official. The injured terrorist later succumbed to his injuries. The dropped packets are being scrutinized with the help of Bomb disposal squad. Further investigations are being conducted.

### SFs on high...

the return of fidayeen to Jammu and Kashmir after more than three years.

Both the terrorists, believed to be from the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), were shot dead after an over four-hour gun battle.

On May 8, a terrorist was killed as the Army foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Laam area of Rajouri district. There were several blasts in Rajouri district in April and May.

Police had busted two modules of the LeT instrumental in carrying out terror acts and ferrying drug-dropped weapons from Pakistan to the Kashmir valley. They arrested five members of two terror modules.

### Shah emphasises on...

country, physically and virtually.

On the first day of the conference, deliberations were held on various subjects of national security, including counter-terrorism, radicalisation, issues pertaining to crypto currencies, counter-rogue drone technology and challenges posed by Maoist outfits.

The home minister also inaugurated the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) developed by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

This system will help in quick and easy disposal of cases with the help of centralised finger print database, the officials said.

Shah will be addressing the conference on the concluding day on Thursday.

### COVID: 418 new...

Ladakh recorded 18 fresh Covid cases that pushed the infection tally to 29,085, officials said.

All the new cases were recorded in 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 officials.

The number of active cases stands at 75 in Ladakh - 69 from Leh and six in Kargil, they said. A total of 320 sample reports were tested in Ladakh, of which 273 in Leh and 29 in Kargil were found negative, officials said.

Seven patients - six in Leh and one in Kargil - were cured and discharged, taking the overall recoveries to 28,792, officials added.

### Five of family...

(SIT) headed by Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjay Sharma has been formed to investigate the incident," Senior Superintendent of Police (Jammu) Chandan Kohli said.

A police spokesperson said a call was received from Habib's sister Shahzada, a resident of Srinagar's Barzulla locality, wherein she expressed apprehension that her brother might have committed suicide as he was not answering her calls.

After reaching Habib's house, police found it bolted from inside and noticed a foul smell emanating from it. The doors of the house were broken down and four semi-decomposed bodies were found inside.

Local people informed police that the nearby house belonged to Sakina, a widow who originally hailed from Doda district and was living with her family.

When the police reached the other house, they found two more bodies there, the spokesman said, adding prima facie, it appears to be a case of poisoning. It is being ascertained whether it is a case of forced poisoning or the victims committed suicide.

SSP Kohli also rushed to the spot and ordered a thorough probe into the incident.

The bodies have been shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem examination, Kohli said.

Relatives of the deceased reached the hospital to identify the bodies.

Habib was living in Jammu for the past nearly 10 years. He was helping Sakina who was trapped in several court cases related to family disputes, Habib's uncle said.

However, Sakina's relatives accused Habib of not allowing them to meet her over the past four years.

He (Habib) had completely controlled my mother and other siblings, 17-year-old Magray's mother, who was waiting outside the mortuary of Government Medical College, said.

She said Habib had also once attacked her when she had gone to meet her son, and accordingly she had registered a case against him.

Demanding a prompt investigation into the incident, she said there was no reason for all of them to take the extreme step.

Police said, a telephonic call was received from a lady namely Shahzada, daughter of Habbibullah Bhat, resident of H No 900 Bhat House, Barzulla Srinagar, regarding suspicion that her brother namely Noor-ul-Habib is not picking up her calls and she has apprehension that he might have committed suicide.

On this information Police parties of PP Sidhra and PS Nagrota headed by IC PP Sidhra SI Majid Hussain and SHO Nagrota Inspector Vishav Partap rushed to the spot and found that the doors of the said house were bolted from inside.

During the close observation, it was found that a foul smell was emanating from the house and the doors of the house were forcibly broke open in presence of civil witnesses (locals of Tawi Vihar Colony Sidhra). It was found by the Police party that the dead bodies are lying in the said house.

The locals of the area identified that four dead bodies are of Noor ul Habib, son of Habib Ullah, Sakina Begum, wife of Late Ghulam Hassan, Sajad Ahmed, son of Farooq Ahmed Magray and Nasmeena Akhter, daughter of Late Ghulam Hassan.

They also informed that there is another house which belongs to one Sakina, who is one of the deceased and the police party went there and opened the doors and found that two more dead bodies of Rubina Bano, daughter of Gh Hussain and Zafar Salim, son of Gh Hussain, are lying in that house.

A probe has been started so as to ascertain the cause as well as motive behind the casualties and to find the reasons for the same.

A SIT headed by Sanjay Sharma SP Rural, Pardeep Kumar SDPO Nagrota, Inspector Vishav Partap SHO Nagrota and SI Majid Hussain IC/PP Sidhra has been formed so as to investigate the matter.

### KP murder: Govt...

and search operation but Wani fled in the cover of darkness after hurling grenades at the approaching police party, they said.

During the search operation, police also recovered arms and ammunition from Wani's house, prompting the authorities to place his father and three brothers under arrest, besides initiating the process of attaching their house.

Wani was identified by eyewitnesses and Sunil Kumar's cousin as the person who fired indiscriminately at him and his brother while they were working in the apple orchard on Tuesday.

Earlier this year, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had announced that it would start the process of "attachment of some immovable properties which have been used for purpose of terrorism as per section 2(g) and 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act" and asked people not to shelter or harbour terrorists/terror associates.

Meanwhile, Kashmiri Pandits serving in the Valley held a massive protest against the killing of their community member in Shopian and demanded that the employees in Kashmir under the prime minister's package be relocated to Jammu in view of selective and targeted killings.

Hundreds of Kashmiri posted KP employees, who are on strike and have been protesting for past three months here in support of their relocation to safer areas in Jammu, assembled at relief commissioner's office and took out a rally to protest the fresh killing in the Valley.

They were also joined by activists of various Kashmiri Pandit organisations.

Raising 'Bharat Mata Ki jai' and 'Justice for KP's relocation' slogans, they took out the protest rally and jammed the Tawi bridge on the highway for hours. They sat on a dharna for two hours on the bridge. Police had to face a tough time to remove them from the bridge and clear the highway.

The protesters also briefly clashed with police who were forcibly evicting them from the bridge to restore the traffic.

"We have only one demand of relocation of our postings from Kashmir to Jammu as selective killings of Kashmiri Pandits continue unabated. We have been made sitting ducks for target practice of terrorists," a protesting employee, Sunil, told reporters.

### Police identify killers...

He said stringent punishment will be handed out to those involved in the killing of Sunil Kumar.

Terrorists shot dead the Kashmiri Pandit and injured his cousin on Tuesday at an apple orchard in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

According to police officials, two terrorists belonging to the banned Al-Badar organisation, came to the orchard in the morning and lined up everyone.

After identification, they segregated Sunil Kumar Bhat and his cousin Pitambar Kumar Bhat aka Pintu Kumar and shot indiscriminately on them with their AK-47 rifles. According to eyewitnesses and Pitambar Bhat's statement, while one terrorist was firing indiscriminately, the other was capturing the horrific incident on his smartphone.

### Political parties can't...

court referred to the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and said, Given an opportunity, they will look for dignified earning.

We all must remember the good old saying: There is no free lunch!, " the apex court said, adding the concern is about the right way of spending public money .

There has to be a distinction between the offer of ornaments, television sets, consumer electronics free of cost and real welfarist offers. The promise of free coaching for professional courses cannot be compared with the promise of free white goods, a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said.

The bench, also including justices J K Maheshwari and Hima Kohli is mulling and setting up an expert panel to brainstorm the issue of freebies announced during elections.

It said that the issue of regulating freebies is getting increasingly complicated and asked all the stakeholders to give their suggestions on the proposed panel while fixing the PIL for hearing on August 22.

At the outset, the bench said the expression freebie' should not be confused with genuine welfare measures and gave illustrations to distinguish between freebies and real welfarist offer .

As rightly pointed out by some of you, Article 38 (2) of the Constitution mandates the State to strive to minimize inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities, and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

You cannot prevent a political party or individual from making promises that are aimed at fulfilling this constitutional mandate if elected to power. The question is what exactly qualifies as a valid promise, the CJI observed.

"Can the promise to provide free and compulsory education to all be termed as a freebie," the bench asked.

Can we describe the promise of subsidy on power, seeds, and fertilizers to small and marginal farmers to make agriculture remunerative as a freebie? Can we describe the promise to provide free and universal health care as a freebie? Can we describe the promise to provide safe drinking water of cost to every citizen as a freebie, it observed.

The CJI gave another illustration asking can the promise of providing a few minimum essential units of electricity free of cost to the needy be held as a freebie.

I don't think voters are looking for freebies. Given an opportunity, they will look for dignified earnings. We have examples of schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which offered dignified earning and also created public assets in rural India, the CJI said.

The CJI said the promises alone are not deciding the outcome of elections and there have been instances of parties that promise more compared to others losing the elections badly.