

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Refugees denied citizenship...

data of its membership drive.
"Details regarding this will be shared after the meeting. But I request you all to go beyond the target given by the party regarding Naranpura, Wadaj and Sardar Stadium wards," he said.
Shah said BJP's constitution requires all party workers to renew their membership after six years.
This has been done after a lot of thinking, as against the lifetime membership policy followed by many other political parties, he said.
In the BJP, the party workers get an opportunity to decide on renewing their membership and the party is given the opportunity to decide whether to renew the worker's membership, he said.
"There should not be a single BJP booth in Naranpura ward which is not elected as per our constitution. There should not be a BJP booth where the number of women is less than 50 per cent. Also, no Dalit locality should be left out without a BJP booth," he said.
Such parameters will be decided when the membership drive gains pace, he said.

Murmu greets people...

cultural boundaries to symbolise the unity in diversity of our country, Murmu said.
"This festival strengthens our determination to protect the rights of women. May this festival nurture the spirit of harmony and love, and enhance the respect for women in the society," she was quoted as having said in a message issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
The festival will be celebrated on Monday. It is marked by the practice of sisters tying a 'rakhi' on the wrist of their brothers.

Former minister Chowdhary...

New roads, highways, bridges, hospitals, 3 three-tier democracy with the DDC election have replaced nepotism and corruption. Earlier, countless money was spent on papers, but it went to the pockets of few and was never spent on the ground for the welfare of the common masses, he said and added that the Modi government is committed to working for the welfare of people with even more vigor.
Tarun Chugh, while welcoming Choudhary Zulfikar, attacked Abdullah, Mufti, and Nehru-Gandhi families for ditching and doing injustices to the Gujar-Bakerwal community for 70 years. He said that these parties banned inter-district recruitment hence prohibiting the community from taking the benefit of government jobs. For decades, the voice of this community went unheard, and now PM Modi has heard and acted upon the core issues of this community. Today, the J&K has been progressing at the speed ahead of the whole nation, under the Modi government, he said.
Ravinder Raina also welcomed the political stalwart and praised him for his extensive public-centric approach. He recalled that as a dedicated public representative, the former Minister brought many development projects for the welfare of the people.

Dr. Jitendra Singh described Choudhary Zulfikar as the carrier of a political legacy that will benefit the area as well as the party. He said that the Modi government strengthened the grassroots level democracy and progressed J&K on the development front. He enumerated multiple Medical Colleges, Bio-tech Park, Shahpur Kandi project while stressing that the Modi government not only initiated the new development projects but also brought to life the abandoned major development projects in J&K.
Zulfikar Ali, accompanied by scores of his supporters and leaders, expressed his satisfaction in joining the BJP, citing his admiration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts for bringing peace and development to the region.

"I have chosen to join the BJP and Modi ji and Shah Sahib to steer our region towards progress, development and prosperity," Ali told reporters.

He emphasised a departure from emotive politics often advocated by leaders from the valley, and said "We do not have anything to do with emotional politics preached by political leaders from the valley."

He highlighted the need for enhanced tourism initiatives in the Rajouri-Poonch area, underscoring its potential as a tourist destination comparable to Kashmir:

"I was in the process of finding a new path for serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir and finally found the BJP the right party to join to further the cause of the people of the region through it," he said.

He further said he wanted to bring all top BJP leaders to the Rajouri-Poonch belt, so they could hear first-hand the problems faced by the people.

"Yesterday, I met with the Union Home Minister to discuss our demands for Rajouri-Poonch, particularly in the area of tourism. Despite its beauty similar to that of Kashmir, the region sees hardly any tourists - domestic or foreign. No one visits our 'seven lake wonderland', and we want to transform it into a prominent tourist destination," he said.

Criticising Kashmir-based parties for allegedly exploiting regional sentiments, Ali blamed them for the narrative of fear propagated over the decades and advocated for closer integration with Delhi's power centre to accelerate development initiatives.

"For over 70 years, we were told that if Muslims wanted to survive in Jammu, they had to vote for the National Conference. The leaders misled us by instilling fear among the people with this narrative. But why should we distance ourselves from Delhi? If Delhi is the power centre, why should we stay away from it? I joined the BJP to bring my region onto the path of development," he said.

Responding to criticisms of BJP as a "Hindu party", Ali said, "Our decision to join the BJP does not alter our faith. The party has delivered tangible improvements in peace and development across the region."

While thanking the BJP senior leadership for the warm response, Zulfikar said that he has joined the party with the motto of the welfare of the ST community and the progress of the Rajouri-Poonch area. He lamented that this area is more beautiful than most of similar places in the world, but was consistently ignored by the previous governments.

"Earlier, a person from a village could not afford kidney failure treatment due to lack of funds, but thanks to the Golden Card by Modi, no one is now afraid of costly treatment. Earlier, under Indira Awas Yojana, a meager sum was released for just 2 houses in a village, but now almost all the needy in a village are getting handsome assistance under PM Awas Yojana", said Choudhary.

"They prevent us from joining the BJP and criticize us on joining the BJP on the religious lines", he said and attacked the Congress for practicing double standards on religious grounds.

Ali, who is an advocate, won from the Darhal Assembly constituency of the Rajouri district in the 2008 and 2014 Assembly elections on a PDP ticket. He served as a Cabinet minister in the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP coalition government from 2015 to 2018.

J&K BJP General Secretary Adv Vibodh Gupta, former Minister Er Abdul Ghani Kohli, former MP Talib Hussain Choudhary, DDC Iqbal Malik, District President Dinesh Sharma, and ST Moreha President Roshan Choudhary, who were also present on the occasion, welcomed Chowdhry Zulfikar Ali into the party fold.

The coalition government collapsed in June 2018 after the national party pulled out of the government. Many PDP leaders led by former minister Altaf Bukhari subsequently founded the Apni Party in 2020 and Ali was one of its founding members.

The Election Commission on Friday announced Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir in three phases on September 18, 25 and October 1 and said the counting of votes would take place on October 4.

NC to announce candidates...

number of seats which BJP always has, I remember in 2014 assembly elections, they said 45 seats. It does not behoove the BJP to talk about this. Let them talk about themselves, and let us talk about ourselves," he added. Meanwhile, a former PDP legislator from Karnah, Javid Mirchal, joined the NC and was welcomed into the party fold by Abdullah and other senior leaders.

"It is the good fortune of the NC that such a leader, who is connected with the people and has a close relation with the people, today joined the NC. It is also a sign of which way the wind is blowing," the NC vice president said. He said Mirchal did not set any preconditions for his joining.

"There was no bargaining. When he met me, he only talked about the people of Karnah. He only said that the area should be developed and there should be real representation and people's issues should be resolved. We have assured him that if God wills and the NC is able to form the government, then surely we will address the issues of Karnah," Abdullah said.

Wife of fallen...

last September. "I am so proud of the sacrifice made by my husband," Fatimah says in a choked voice. The 32-year-old was one of the four brave officers who lost their lives during the fierce encounter with terrorists on September 13, 2023.

Col Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhondhak and Sepoy Pardeep Singh also made the supreme sacrifice during the gunfight with terrorists in the mountainous region of Kokernag in South Kashmir. Two senior Jammu and Kashmir police officers visited Fatimah and her son on Friday to offer their support. The award will be given at an investiture ceremony by President Nrapadi Murmu. The date is yet to be announced. In the small, sunlit room adorned with a large portrait of her husband, Fatimah reminisced about their cherished moments. "He was not just a police officer; he was my partner, my friend, and the father of our son," she recalled. Ali Ashar looks at his father's portrait, his lip movement perhaps saying "daddy". This fills Fatimah with both joy and sorrow.

Determined to raise her son with the values of bravery and integrity that Humayun embodied, she recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Kashmir University, a role provided to the Next of Kin (NoK) of fallen officers.

"I don't wish to be called the widow of Humayun. My marriage was the finality of my life, and I will always be his wife," says Fatimah, who holds an MPhil in Clinical Psychology.

Fatimah recounted the harrowing moment she received a video call from Humayun on that fateful day. "His last words to me were, 'Baby, I am hit. I love you, I am sorry, please take care of Ashar for me,'" she recalls him telling her. Their final audio conversation was filled with love and hope, with Humayun assuring her; "I will make it for you and Ashar. I am coming home, baby."

But the reality struck! "He did come home, but in a different way," Fatima says, tears rolling down her cheeks. Earlier this year, Fatimah had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the region "It was reassuring to see that the government acknowledges the bravery of my husband." "The saga of his valour will be a precious treasure for my son as he grows up in this world," she asserted, as she spoke of her commitment to keeping her husband's legacy alive.

2 bovine smuggling bids foiled, 26 bovines rescued, 5 smugglers nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police tightening its noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhemu Police Team of Police Station Nagrota has foiled 01 bovine smuggling bid in which 19 bovine animals were rescued and 01 vehicle Truck bearing bearing registration number JK18/8668 loaded with 19 bovine animals seized, driver of the vehicle namely Mohd Arif S/O Abdul Gani east Gujar R/O Kashi Shera Talwara,Teh. & Distt. Reasi was arrested on spot.In this regard, Case FIR No.224/2024 U/S 223/BNS 11 PCA Act 5/52/54/56 Transport of animals Act stands registered in Police Station Nagrota.

Moreover Police party of police post Sidhra foiled another bovine smuggling bid in which three bovine smugglers namely Faqir Mohd, son of Mosham Din; Radhid Ahmed, son of Rehan Ali and Mushtaq Hussain, son of Sultan Ali all residents of Bain Bajalta Teh.& Distt.Jammu were arrested on spot who were shifting 07 Bovines animals on foot towards kashmir valley without any DM permission.On this Case FIR No. 225/024 U/S 223 BNS &11 PCA act stands registered in PS Nagrota.In both cases investigation has taken up.

Missing lady traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A missing lady was traced and reunited with her family by Jourian

Police.

An information was received at PP Jourian about the missing of a lady name withheld, resident of Jammu whose missing report was entered at PP Jourian vide DD No.10 Dtd.16-08-2024

Acting upon this, A Police Team of PP Jourian led by IC PP Pounchak put strenuous efforts and with the help of technical assistance as well as human intervention traced out the missing lady and after completing all legal formalities the said lady has been handed over to her legal heirs. Accordingly missing report has been closed.

Crackdown on illegal mining, 3 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In a surprise operation which was carried at different locations in Rural zone of District Jammu.

BPP Sandwan detained one Dumper bearing No. JK14H4101 found loaded with Sand and without form A.

PP Jourian detained two Tractor Trolleys Bearing Reg.No.JK02DK-0998 and (JK02DB -9173 loaded with sand and without having Form's A. After seizure of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

EAM Jaishankar calls on Kuwaiti PM, Crown Prince; discuss bilateral ties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUWAIT CITY: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday called on Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Muhammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and discussed ways to take the bilateral ties to a higher level.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on Sunday on a day-long visit, appreciated Sheikh Sabah's perspectives on the deepening of India-Kuwait ties and conveyed the greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Pleased to call on His Highness Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait. Conveyed the greetings of PM @narendramodi," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

"Appreciated his perspec-

tives on the deepening of India-Kuwait ties. Valued his views in regard to further economic cooperation," he added.

Jaishanakar earlier called on Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and sought his insights on taking the bilateral ties to a higher level.

"Honoured to call on His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait. Conveyed the greetings of the President and Prime Minister," he said in another post n X.

"India and Kuwait share centuries-old bonds of goodwill and friendship. Our contemporary partnership is expanding steadily. Thank him for his guidance and insights on taking our ties to a higher level," Jaishankar

added.

Earlier, Jaishankar was received by his Kuwaiti counterpart Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya upon his arrival in the country.

Jaishankar's visit will enable both sides to review various aspects of India-Kuwait bilateral relations including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural, consular and people-to-people contacts, as well as exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement ahead of the visit. His comes nearly two months after 45 Indians had died in a devastating fire at a building in Kuwait. At least 49 foreign workers were killed and 50 others injured in the fire in June at the seven-storey building in Kuwait.

Singapore grants citizenship to 177 people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SINGAPORE: Singapore Sunday welcomed 177 new citizens, including Sudhan Vincent from Tamil Nadu, encouraging them to contribute to the city state's common causes and help the nation to function as a "viable society".

"We all have different talents and different interests. Find something meaningful to you, purposeful to you and use it for the greater good. Then you contribute to our community," Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper.

Sudhan was among 177 new Singapore citizens who received their citizenship cer-

tificates at the annual National Citizenship Ceremony held by the People's Association at the Singapore Institute of Management Performing Arts Theatre, a state-supported institution.

According to the latest statistics, around 23,500 new citizenships were granted in 2023. The application to become a Singapore citizen is open to those who have been in Singapore permanent residents for at least two years and are aged 21 and above, according to a report by the Singapore Daily.

Sudhan, 49, landed a job in Singapore in 2008 while searching for new pastures after his father died in an accident in 2007.

"I'll try a few more years, I thought then," he said, "but soon my children adjusted here and got an education here so it made sense to stay," the daily quoted Sudhan as saying. His son, 19, enlisted for compulsory national service in January (for two years in the Armed Forces and uni-formed groups). While anxious at first, Sudhan said that he has seen his son grow more independent and believes it is good training.

Sudhan, whose wife and two children are Singaporean, said: "Getting the citizenship today gives us a sense of assurance to help build our life here together and hopefully motivate my children to achieve their dreams."

DEO Doda convenes meeting with representatives of Political Parties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: The District Election Officer (DEO) Doda, Harvinder Singh, convened a meeting with representatives of various political parties to discuss the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other applicable guidelines of the Election Commission of India, in view of the upcoming Assembly Election-2024.

During the meeting, the DEO emphasized the importance of seeking prior permission for election campaigning, rallies, and the use

of loudspeakers. He stressed the significance of adhering to the Model Code of Conduct, which is crucial for ensuring free and fair elections. He outlined the responsibilities of political parties and their candidates in maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

The discussion also covered logistical arrangements, voter education, and measures to enhance transparency and prevent electoral malpractice.

Representatives from the political parties expressed their concerns and sugges-

tions, which were acknowledged and discussed in detail. The representatives present at the meeting appreciated the efforts of the District Administration, particularly for their cooperation during the conduct of the last Lok Sabha Election, especially in the timely issuance of permissions to political parties.

The meeting was attended by SSP Doda, Nodal Officer MCC, ROs, AROs, Election Officials, Master Trainers alongside representatives from various political parties.

Assembly Election 2024: DEO Udhampur convenes meeting with political parties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: To discuss the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct and address key issues related to the upcoming General Assembly Election in the district, the District Election Officer, Udhampur, Saloni Rai, convened a meeting with district heads and representatives of various political parties.

The meeting took place at the Mini Conference Hall within the DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

Deputy District Election Officer, Dr. Anirudh Rai, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, SDM Ramnagar Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, along with other officers and representatives from various political parties.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on several aspects of the electoral process which includes enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, Election Expenditure Monitoring System, Media Certification & Monitoring Committee, Transport Management and awareness activities under the Systematic Voters'

Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

During the discussions, the DEO stressed the importance of strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct to ensure free and fair elections. She outlined the responsibilities of political parties and their candidates in maintaining the integrity of the electoral process, urging them to comply with the guidelines established by the Election Commission of India in light of the forthcoming General Assembly Elections, 2024. Furthermore, district heads and political representatives received hands-on training on various e-apps, including C-Vigil which enables citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), the Suvidha Candidate App, Voter Helpline App, Know Your Candidate App, SVEEP portal, Affidavit Portal and other applications designed to ensure smooth and transparent elections. The DEO also informed the political representatives about the pre-certification process for paid news and advertisements.

Karunanidhi a towering figure in Indian politics, society: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed late DMK President and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M Karunanidhi as a "towering figure" in Indian politics, literature and society.

The late leader's efforts to promote the Tamil language and culture are still remembered by the people, Modi said in a message to Karunanidhi's son and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

Stalin shared on his 'X' handle, Modi's message for the release of a commemorative coin on the occasion of Karunanidhi's centenary on Sunday by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The CM thanked Modi. "I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. @narendramodi avl. for his kind wishes and sup-

port for the grand success of the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaigarn Centenary Commemorative Coin release ceremony," Stalin said.

In his message, the PM said Karunanidhi "was a towering figure in Indian politics, literature and society."

"He was always passionate about the development of Tamil Nadu, as well as national progress."

"As a political leader, Thiru Kalaigarn Karunanidhi ji left an indelible mark on our country's history as a Chief Minister who was elected by the people multiple times over the span of decades, underlining his deep understanding of society, policy and politics," the PM added.

The DMK stalwart was a multi-talented personality with a "prolific pen."

Modi congratulates Paetongtarn Shinawatra on becoming Thai PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Paetongtarn Shinawatra on becoming Thailand's prime minister and said he looks forward to working with her to further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's prime minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement on Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed

her predecessor.

"Congratulations @ingshin on your election as the Prime Minister of Thailand. Best wishes for a very successful tenure," Modi said in a post on X.

"Look forward to working with you to further strengthen the bilateral ties between India and Thailand that are based on the strong foundations of civilisational, cultural and people to people connect," he said.

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra.

Assembly Elections-2024: ADDC Samba convenes meeting with Political Parties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In preparation for the upcoming Legislative Assembly Elections in Jammu & Kashmir, a meeting on the direction of District Election Officer Samba, Rajesh Sharma was held today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner, Champa Devi at Meeting Hall of the DC Office, Nandini Hills, Samba.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Jagdish Singh, Dy. DEO, GM DIC, AR Cooperative Addl Charge DIO Samba, District Treasury Officer and Accounts Officer.

During the meeting, the importance of strict adherence to the MCC by all political parties and candidates was emphasized. Officials highlighted the necessity of upholding a peaceful electoral environment and encouraged all parties to engage in ethical campaigning practices.

The use of campaign materials, such as flags and banners, was discussed in detail, with specific guidelines on their appropriate use and the timing for their installation and removal.

Attendees were also briefed on the comprehensive measures being put in place to ensure the transparency and efficiency of

the electoral process. These measures include stringent monitoring of campaign expenditures and the use of advanced technological tools like eVIGIL, Suvidha and NCORE, which are provided by the Election Commission of India to enhance real-time monitoring and facilitate swift action in case of any violations.

Concerns raised by the political party representatives were addressed during the meeting, with officials assuring them that their suggestions would be taken into consideration. The discussion underscored the administration's commitment to providing a level playing field for all candidates, ensuring that the elections are conducted smoothly and without bias.

The need for coordinated efforts among various departments was also highlighted, particularly in effectively monitoring and enforcing the MCC.

The meeting concluded with a strong consensus on the importance of maintaining the highest standards of electoral conduct. All participants reaffirmed their commitment to working together to ensure a free, fair, and transparent electoral process in the district.