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the notable findings of the Special Summary Revision-2024. "As per the Special Summary Revision -2024 completed with publication of the final electoral roll, the total number of electors (voters) stand at 88.03 Lakh. These include 44.89 Lakh males, 43.13 Lakh females and 168 third gender electors," the Chief Electoral Officer said in a statement.

A total of 93,284 voters have been added in this Special Summary Revision across Jammu and Kashmir, while the elector population ratio has improved from 0.59 to 0.60.

Highlighting the notable achievements, the CEO said that the number of young voters in the 18 to 19 years age group has increased by 45,964, with 24,310 of them being women, even as the overall number of the women voters has also gone up by 51,142.

"This significant increase in the number of young electors in Jammu & Kashmir demonstrates the commitment of young electors towards the electoral process," said the CEO, adding that the total number of young electors in Jammu and Kashmir in the 18-29 age group stand at 25.34 Lakhs.

The comprehensive Increase of first time young voters is attributed to the comprehensive SVEEP plan and its successful implementation by the respective District Election Officers, under the overall guidance of Chief Electoral Officer Jammu and Kashmir.

The CEO also noted the special efforts made during the special summary revision exercise which has resulted in the improvement in the gender ratio of the electors by 2 points-going up from 959 to 961, demonstrating significant progress in efforts towards intensification of electoral inclusion of women.

"A ground-up, multi-faceted campaign including organising Prabhath Feris, Door to Door and Mass Awareness programs have contributed significantly to the increase in the number of women electors," said the CEO.

Along with the increase in numbers of electors, the number of polling stations across Jammu and Kashmir has also seen an uptick, this year.

"The number of polling stations (PSs) in Jammu and Kashmir for the upcoming Assembly elections has increased from 11629 to 11838 and polling station locations (PSLs) from 8930 to 9168. This increase of 209 polling stations and 238 polling station locations has come courtesy the rationalisation of the polling stations and polling locations, while ensuring that there should be a distance of less than 2 kilometres to facilitate the voters," the CEO informed.

The CEO informed that as on date, Jammu and Kashmir has 83,191 registered Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) voters, while the number of centenarian voters (of age over 100 years) stand at 2428.

Appreciating all the stakeholders involved in the Special Summary Revision, the CEO underlined the significance of good quality, pure electoral rolls, weeded out of all errors.

The CEO appreciated the Block Level Officers and the key role played in successful conduct of the House-to-House surveys across the challenging terrains of Jammu and Kashmir, even as he noted the significant rise in the number of registered Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) voters and Migrants voters.

The CEO appealed to all eligible voters across Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their franchise on the polling days in their respective constituencies and strengthen democracy in the Union Territory.

UPSC drops latest...

or deputy secretaries -- through lateral entry, which is referred to as the appointment of specialists (including those from the private sector) in government departments. It was one of the biggest tranches of lateral recruitment announced by the commission.

The decision had ignited criticism from the opposition parties, which claimed that it undermined the reservation rights of the Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Union Minister Chirag Paswan, the head of BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), had also said the proposed recruitment was a "matter of concern" for him and that he would take up the matter with the Centre.

Official sources said the decision to cancel the advertisement was taken by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the government would now review the lateral-entry recruitment drive with reference to the applicability of reservation provisions in it. At present, the sources said, there is no policy and provision for reservation for these specialised or single-cadre posts.

They said comments and concerns of all stakeholders would be taken into account by the government to find out whether or not reservation can be applied to lateral-entry recruitment.

"The Centre may review its reservation policy to ensure social justice in lateral-entry recruitment," a source said.

In the letter to the UPSC, Singh said for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reservation in public employment is a cornerstone of "our social justice framework", aimed at addressing historical injustices and promoting inclusivity.

"Since these positions have been treated as specialised and designated as single-cadre posts, there has been no provision for reservation in these appointments. This aspect needs to be reviewed and reformed in the context of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's focus on ensuring social justice," the minister said.

"Hence, I urge the UPSC to cancel the advertisement for lateral entry recruitment issued on 17.8.2024," he added.

Singh said the step would be a significant advance in the pursuit of social justice and empowerment.

"It is well known that, as a principle, lateral entry was endorsed by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission which was constituted in 2005, chaired by (senior Congress leader) Shri Veerappa Moily. The recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission in 2013 were also in the same direction," he said. However, there have been many high-profile cases of lateral entrants before and after that, Singh pointed out. Under earlier governments, posts as important as those of secretaries in various ministries, the leadership of the UIDAI etc. were given to lateral entrants without following any process of reservation, he said. "Further, it is well known that the members of the infamous National Advisory Council used to run a super-bureaucracy that controlled the Prime Minister's Office," the minister added. While most of the major lateral entries before 2014 were made in an ad-hoc manner, including cases of alleged favouritism, the efforts of "our government have been to make the process institutionally driven, transparent and open", he said. Further, the prime minister is of the firm belief that the process of lateral entry must be aligned with the principles of equity and social justice as enshrined in the Constitution, particularly concerning the provisions of reservation, Singh added. Lateral recruitment in the central government has been undertaken since 2018 to appoint persons for specific assignments, keeping in view their specialised knowledge and expertise in the domain area.

The officers at these levels play an important role in policy-making. So far, 63 appointments have been made through lateral entry, of which 35 were from the private sector. At present, 57 such officers are in positions in different ministries and departments, according to the latest data.

Major underground terrorist...

powder, some milk powder packets and other eatables, the spokesman said.

However, officials said no one was arrested during the ongoing operation as the terrorists using the hideout managed to escape before the start of the search operation.

They said security forces also busted a cave-type hideout in the Balotha area of Basantgarh in Udhampur district during an ongoing anti-terrorist operation.

Some food items were recovered from the abandoned hideout, the officials said. The search operation in Basantgarh was intensified on Monday after terrorists opened fire on a joint patrol party of CRPF and police, killing an inspector-rank officer of the paramilitary force.

PDP chief spokesperson...

journalist-turned-politician, was a close aide of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and had also served as her media consultant when she was the chief minister.

Speaking to reporters, Bukhari said he had joined the party in 2019 after the fall of the PDP-BJP government.

"It was a difficult period and in the last five years, I have worked really hard to strengthen the very idea of the PDP, which is the identity and rights of the people of Kashmir," he said.

He said when attempts were made to break the PDP, the party workers did not break and stood by the party during all ups and downs.

Even young and educated people joined the party and contributed to it, he added.

However, Bukhari alleged that people are being side-lined despite their best contributions.

"New leaders are being welcomed. Many of the party leaders, who always stood by the party, have not been taken on-board. So, working in such conditions is becoming difficult for me. So, I have tendered my resignation as chief spokesperson and from the main membership of the party," he said.

Meanwhile, another PDP leader and DDC member from Tral Harbaksh Singh also quit the party.

Singh was apparently upset over the inclusion of Rafiq Ahmed Naik, son of former National Conference minister and MP Ali Mohammad Naik from Tral into the PDP. Naik is set to get the party ticket from Tral.

Singh said he has quit the party and announced to join the Awami Ittehad Party led by MP Sheikh Abdul Rasheed, who is currently in Tihar Jail.

Singh said he has not left the PDP over not getting the ticket, "but being a senior leader, I was not taken into confidence". He said that despite giving 14 years to the PDP, he was not informed about the decision the party took for the Tral seat.

CS takes stock of...

water, power, toilets and others.

Dulloo also sensitized the administration to look into the security and accommodation of contesting candidates. He advised for making adequate arrangements for such protected persons along with other requirements for their campaigning and electioneering. He implored upon the Transport Department to make prior roadmap in collaboration with the respective districts for making available the requisite number of buses, LMVs and HMVs for ferrying polling staff, security forces and other poll materials. He enjoined upon the respective Divisional Commissioners to personally monitor these activities along with specifying places, carrying out necessary repairs, if any before the actual dates of polling there. He directed for submitting the daily reports about the progress made on this account. Moreover the Chief Secretary took appraisal from the concerned Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Transport Department about their preparedness and plans to meet the requirements. He asked them to observe utmost coordination with each other so that this democratic exercise completes in a very congenial manner with large participation of public.

SC raps WB...

comprehend how the State was not prepared to deal with the incident of vandalism of the premises of the hospital," the top court said.

The bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud criticised the ex-principal of RG Kar Medical College Dr Sandip Ghosh for trying to pass off the case as that of suicide and not letting the parents of the deceased to see her body for several hours.

"What was the principal doing? Why was this inaction to first pass this as suicide and not registering an FIR. Body is handed to the parents for cremation late in the night. On the next day, the doctors are on protest and a mob assembles at the hospital.

"The hospital is invaded and critical facilities are damaged. What was the police doing? A serious offence has taken place and the crime scene is within the hospital. The police should have protected the crime scene. How can the police allow vandals to enter the hospital. After the principal resigned, he is sent to another hospital. When his conduct was under scrutiny, how was he appointed to another college immediately," the bench, also comprising justices JB Paridivala and Manoj Misra, observed.

The bench said what has taken place in Kolkata is not just a horrific murder but an incident which has raised systemic issues about the safety of doctors.

"We are deeply concerned that there is a virtual absence of safe work conditions across the country, particularly in public hospitals. Most of the young doctors have to put in 36 hours of work. "We find that there are no duty rooms available, or separate restrooms for men and women doctors and nursing staff. We must evolve a national consensus that there must be a national standard protocol so that safe work conditions are provided," the bench said.

If women cannot go to their place of work safely, then we are denying them equality, the apex court said.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, refuted the observations and submitted that Kolkata police took all necessary action. He said he will place on record all the facts.

"Photos and videos were circulated before the police reached the crime scene. We didn't allow anything to happen and cordoned off the area. Inquest was done and a case of unnatural death was registered immediately. We caught the culprit who was a civic worker. This is not adversarial litigation," Sibal told the court.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said a mob of 7,000 people could not have assembled at the hospital without the knowledge and consent of the police.

Four children, women...

Among the injured were also a few migrant labourers, they said. A total of 12 dog bite cases were reported, with three people sustaining serious injuries, a doctor at the sub-district hospital said.

All the injured have received anti-rabies vaccines and the three with severe bites have been admitted to the hospital for observation, the doctor said.

The dog was killed by local residents when it attempted to enter a school after the incident, the officials said.

Two back-to...

said. They said another quake of magnitude 4.8 occurred at 6:52 am at a latitude of 34.20 north and a longitude of 74.31 east at a depth of 10 km with the epicentre in Baramulla as well.

The officials said there are no reports of any loss of life or damage to property.

Unidentified body found

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An unidentified individual, approximately 35/40 years old, with a height of about 5'7" and a wheatish complexion, was found unconscious in Main chowk Talab Tillo, Jammu.



The person was attired in green T shirt and grey trouser jeans. He was subsequently transported to GMC Jammu, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival. In light of the suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, inquest proceedings have been initiated under Section 194 BNSSAT Police Post Talab Tillo, Jammu, Police Station Nowabad. The body of the deceased has been transferred to the mortuary. Anyone with information that could help identify may contact SHO Nowabad: 9419835599 ICPP Talab Tillo: 9419153410

Bootlegger arrested, 480 bottles of liquor seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Acting sternly against the sale and purchase of illicit liquor, J&K Police Kathua recovered 480 quarters of 8 PM Whisky (illicit liquor) at NHW Rajbagh naka point, 01 person arrested and the involved vehicle(Tata 407) has also got seized.

An information was received through a reliable source at PS Rajbagh that few persons were involved in sale and purchase of illicit liquor and enroute towards NHW Rajbagh naka point in a vehicle bearing Reg. No. JK20A-4390. Acting swiftly police team led by SHO PS Rajbagh under the guidance of SDPO Border during special checking/patrolling at NHW Rajbagh area noticed said suspicious vehicle (Tata 407) bearing Reg. No. JK20A-4390 driven by Shubham Sharma S/o Prabh Dyal R/o Sungal Tehsil Akhnoor District Jammu who was directed to stop for checking. During checking the police team was able to recover 480 quarters of 8PM Whisky (180 ml each) from his illegal possession. Thereafter all the recovered consignment of illicit liquor i.e 480 Quarters of 8 PM Whisky (180 ml each) were seized and 01 person namely Subham Sharma S/o Prabh Dyal R/o Sungal Tehsil Akhnoor District Jammu was arrested and vehicle got seized on spot. On this an instant case vide FIR No. 183/2024 U/S 48(a)/ Exeise Act got registered at PS Rajbagh and further investigation into this matter has been geared up.

4 notorious drug peddlers arrested with heroin, cash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substances abuse, PS Nagrota Jammu achieved major success by recovering 305 grams of heroin and cash amounting to 1,98400- on the possession of two drug peddlers in the area under the jurisdiction of PS Nagrota.

A Police team of PS Nagrota led by SHO Nagrota under the supervision of senior officers today on 20-08-2024 received a reliable information that a venue car bearing Reg No. HP 33AA-1889 is coming from jammu side towards srinagar with a consignment of heroin-like substance.

Dr Abid assesses Health Agencies' readiness amid Monkeypox emergency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah on Tuesday reviewed the preparedness of public health agencies across J&K in the light of recent declaration of Monkeypox as an emergency by World Health Organisation (WHO). During the meeting, the Secretary directed all stakeholders to take proactive measures to ensure full preparedness to handle any situation. He asked all HODs, to conduct mock drills across the state and to impart training to all health officials regarding logistics and transportation concerned with potential situations. He asked all the HODs to dedicate isolation wards across all health facilities in the state for the purpose. Also, all the HODs were directed to ensure activation of testing, treating, contact tracing centres for monkeypox virus, should there be a need.

Kharge, Rahul to visit J&K today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi will be visiting Jammu and Srinagar on August 21 and 22 for key meetings in preparation for the upcoming assembly elections. The visit comes after Congress president Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi met general secretaries, in-charges and screening committee members of four poll-bound states on Monday.

"On 21st and 22nd August, Congress President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji and Leader of Opposition Shri Rahul Gandhi ji will be visiting Jammu and Srinagar for key meetings in preparation for the upcoming assembly elections," Congress general secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal said on X. Congress National General Secretary Gulam Ahmed Mir told PTI in Jammu that "Kharge ji and Rahul ji will be visiting Jammu and Kashmir for two days, starting tomorrow. They will arrive in Jammu tomorrow afternoon".

Mir said that during their stay, they will engage in extensive meetings with leaders and workers in both Jammu and Srinagar, aiming to energise and strengthen the party cadre. After their interaction in Jammu, they will fly to Srinagar on Wednesday evening to continue their interactions with the cadre there. On Thursday, they will hold a press conference in Srinagar.

ST body seeks clarification on nine reserved assembly seats in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ahead of assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, a group representing Scheduled Tribes has sought a clarification from the Centre on the nine reserved seats for them in the Union Territory, given induction of four more groups in the list early this year.

The All Jammu and Kashmir Gujjar-Bakerwal organization coordination committee (AJKGBOCC) said the reservation of nine seats is meant for a dozen communities declared as STs in 1989 and 1991 based on the Delimitation Commission Report of 2022 and the ST population as per 2011 census. In February, the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, adding four communities -- Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group -- to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir government subsequently approved 10 percent reservation for Paharis and three other tribes, taking the total reservations under the ST category to 20 percent in accordance to the assurance of the J-K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha that there will be no change in the reservation policy of earlier ST-

Accordingly a special Naka was established at TCP Nagrota and the said car was intercepted. During search 305 grams of Herion (Chitta) like substance along with cash amounting to 198400 was recovered from the possession of two accused persons namely Khurshed Ahmad Wani, son of Mohd. Shafi Wani, resident of Lower Munda, Qazigund and Adil Sharief Dar, son of Mohd. Sharief Dar, resident of Darpora, Banihal.

Both the accused persons were arrested and car was also seized. In this regard a case FIR No. 227/24 U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act stands registered in PS Nagrota.

Further, investigation of the case is going on. Nagrota police is working intensively to uproot the chains of drug supply in the region and thorough questioning of the accuseds is going on to know the origin of the drugs supply chain.

Meanwhile, R.S.Pura Police, Jammu achieved major success by recovering 9.5 grams of heroin from two drug peddlers in the area under the jurisdiction of PS R.S.Pura.

A Police team of PS R.S.Pura led by SHO PS R.S.Pura while on routine patrolling, established a naka at Khamb near Asha Rice Mill in the jurisdiction of PS R.S.Pura and rounded up a suspected person, later identified as Sachin Choudhary S/O Gharu Ram Choudhary R/O Langerial Tehsil R.S.Pura. During search, 01 gram of heroin, got recovered from his possession.

In this regard, case FIR No. 178/2024 U/S 8/21/60 NDPS Act stands registered at PS R.S.Pura on 18-08-2024 and accused got arrested.

Also, a Police team of PS R.S.Pura led by SHO PS R.S.Pura while on routine patrolling, established a naka at Kotli Gala Bana near Brick Kiln in the jurisdiction of PS R.S.Pura and rounded up a suspected person, later identified as Siraj Din S/O Qasim Din R/O Old Agra Chak Tehsil R.S.Pura. During search, 8.5 grams of heroin, got recovered from his possession.

In this regard, case FIR No. 181/2024 U/S 8/21/60 NDPS Act stands registered at PS R.S.Pura and accused got arrested. It is pertinent to mention that both the accused persons are notorious criminals.

2 bovine smuggling bids foiled, 3 smugglers arrested, 27 bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu police tightening its noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu Police party of police post Manwal foiled one bovine smuggling bid in which two bovine smugglers namely Irfan Ahmed, son of Mohd. Arbi, resident of Sunjwanb Jallalabad; Altaf Hussain, son of o Bashir Ahmed R/o Krimchi Udhampur were arrested on spot, 21 Bovines rescued and truck bearing registration number JK02CV6663 got seized. On this Case FIR No. 190/024 U/S 223 BNS & 11 PCA act stands registered in PS Hajjar kotli.

Moreover, Team of Police Station Nagrota has foiled one more bovine smuggling bid in which 06 bovines animals were rescued and 01 vehicle Tata Mobile bearing registration number JK18A/5244 seized and the driver of the vehicle namely Nasar Hussain, son of Abdul Rehman, resident of Churat Tehsil Devsar District kulgam was arrested.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 226/2024 U/S 223/BNS 11 PCA Act 5/52/54/56 Transport of animals Act stands registered in Police Station Nagrota.

Former minister Abdul Haq Khan rejoins PDP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir minister Abdul Haq Khan returned to the PDP on Tuesday, two years after he resigned from the party.

Khan served as minister for rural development, panchayati raj, and law and justice in the PDP-BJP coalition. He had distanced himself from the PDP after the state government fell in 2018. Khan rejoined the PDP in the presence of party chief Mehbooba Mufti, who visited his residence due to his ill health, a party leader said.

All the HODs were directed to review the stock position of related consumables, disposables and drugs to ensure that everything is in place at grassroot level in case need arises.

The MD-JKMSCL was asked to strengthen the supply and demand of logistics like testing kits, ppe kits, disposable and drugs.

All the institutions across J&K were directed to maintain high vigil for any exigency.

declared groups after the addition of four new communities to the list.

AJKGBOCC chairman Mohd Anwar Chowdhary said confusion is prevailing within the ST communities after the Election Commission announced three-phased elections, beginning September 18, with certain leaders from newly inducted ST communities expressing their desire to fight the elections from the ST reserved seats.

"We want the government to come out with a clarification as soon as possible... We strongly believe that only the ST groups classified as ST-I are eligible to contest the reserved ST seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections," he said.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 was passed by Parliament in August 2019, bifurcating the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh and extended national laws to the region. As per the act, a Delimitation Commission, which was constituted in March 2020, submitted its report which came into force on May 20, 2022, reserving nine seats for STs and seven for Scheduled Castes among the total 90 seats.

Chowdhary said the sub-classification was enforced by the Jammu and Kashmir Government, with newly entered groups classified as ST-II with an additional 10 percent reservation. ST-I group comprises 12 tribes declared ST in 1989 and 1991 while ST-II comprises newly entered groups. "Under the aforementioned provision, individuals classified under ST-II are not eligible to apply for reserved Assembly seats allocated to ST-I, and vice versa," he said, adding it is crucial to clarify that the reserved constituencies for STs were based on the population of ST-I group of 12 tribes declared ST in 1989 and 1991. He said the nine reserved constituencies which were reserved for ST-I should, therefore, remain exclusively for the ST-I groups to ensure their rightful representation. Chowdhary said though the top BJP leadership and the Lt Governor have time and again assured the community that their reservation will not be diluted, particularly the rights of Gujjar-Bakarwals, the government should keep its word, failing which confidence of the people particularly of ST and SCs shall get shattered. He said they have already forwarded representation to the Election Commission, central government and Lt Governor-led J-K administration, seeking an immediate clarification.