

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! 23.27 lakh electors...

Bijbehara, Shangus-Anantnag East, Pahalgam; whereas in Jammu Division, 8 Assembly Constituencies including, Indermal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhadarwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban and Banihal are scheduled to go for polls in the Phase-I of the Assembly Election.

The Notification for the Phase-I was released on 20 August, 2024 and last date for filing the nominations for Phase-I is 27 August, 2024.

Stay vigilant to...

public at large. He also advised them to overcome language barriers and ensure that there are no gaps in communication.

He reminded the observers that they would be under the watchful gaze of parties, candidates, voters and EC alike.

Around 200 general observers, 100 police observers and as many expenditure observers are being deployed in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana.

CEC Kumar advised the officials to be vigilant towards false narratives trying to derail the election process.

Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasised that the officials should observe the complete election ecosystem for free and fair polls.

Noting that the assembly elections are keenly contested, he said the role of observers becomes all the more critical in these polls.

Election Commissioner Sukhbir Singh Sandhu noted that accessibility, visibility and responsiveness are essential to develop a virtuous spiral enhancing the conduct of the elections.

According to the poll authority, observers were strictly directed to remain accessible to all parties, candidates and voters for timely redressal of their grievances.

Any complaints in this regard will be viewed seriously by the Commission. As the eyes and ears of the Commission on the ground, the observers were asked to exercise constant vigilance with utmost sincerity.

The EC deploys observers under Section 20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and plenary powers of the Constitution.

IAS, IPS, IRS and those from other central services are deployed as observers.

Federation of All...

doctors to resume work and assured them that no adverse action would be taken after they rejoin.

"#FAIMA has decided to call off the strike following positive directions from the #Chief Justice of India. We welcome the acceptance of our prayers for interim protections and the necessary steps to enhance security in hospitals. United, we will continue to fight legally," FAIMA, an umbrella body of doctors, said in a post on X.

The move comes soon after several resident doctors' associations (RDAs) called off their strike over Kolkata incident, following an appeal from the Supreme Court.

Congress to forge...

spoke to Congress leaders and workers here on Thursday to get feedback about the party's grassroots-level preparations for the Assembly polls.

"This was the first meeting after the polls were announced.... We are here to seek the views of local leaders and workers for the polls and alliances. Under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, we have taken the initiative to restore statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. We promise to work towards that," Kharge told reporters here.

He said Gandhi is interested in forging a pre-poll alliance in the Union Territory.

"Rahul Gandhi is interested in contesting the polls unitedly with other parties in Jammu and Kashmir. We have had success as well. We have seen the results in the Lok Sabha polls. The INDIA bloc stopped a dictator from coming to power (at the Centre) with an absolute majority. This is the biggest success of the INDIA bloc," Kharge said.

The Congress president said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is worried after the Lok Sabha polls as some of the legislations it was keen on passing in Parliament have either been withdrawn or sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

He claimed that the BJP used to take advantage of its brute majority in Parliament to pass anti-people laws like those on the farming sector.

About Jammu and Kashmir, Kharge said not a single promise made by the BJP to the people of the region before elections has been fulfilled.

Rahul, Sonia should...

Jammu and Kashmir -- told reporters at the BJP headquarters.

He also asked if the Congress and the National Conference wanted to "snatch the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir again, rights that were granted to them based on BR Ambedkar's Constitution".

"They want to take away the rights of West Pakistani refugees, women, Valmiki Samaj, tribals, and others. The Congress should clarify its stance," Reddy said.

The Narendra Modi government abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, in 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Responding to a question on Rahul Gandhi enjoying ice cream at a hotel in Srinagar, Reddy said it was due to the Modi government's work of 10 years that he could go to Lal Chowk and dine peacefully.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the meeting, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh criticised the Congress-National Conference coalition, calling it an "expired alliance" that would not harm the BJP.

"The alliance will have no impact on the BJP, which will emerge victorious with a majority," Chugh said.

National Conference chief Abdullah on Thursday announced that an alliance with the Congress was final on all 90 assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chugh -- the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir in-charge -- also remarked that Rahul Gandhi should thank Modi for transforming Srinagar into a Smart City and ensuring peace and normality.

"Lal Chowk, once a stronghold of stone-pelters, has now become a tourist hub," he added.

The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president Ravinder Raina expressed confidence that the saffron party would win the assembly elections with a thumping majority.

"The Congress lost despite its alliance in the Lok Sabha elections and it will lose in the assembly polls. Gandhi and Kharge are going door to door, seeking support from political parties," Raina said.

Reddy, Chugh, Jammu and Kashmir BJP general secretary Ashok Koul, and Lok Sabha MP and the party's election management committee chairperson Jugal Kishore Sharma reviewed the poll preparations and discussed strategies for grassroots-level campaigning.

The three-phase elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The results will be declared on October 4.

Work in tandem...

Union Territory. A total of 296 Nodal Officers, including 162 in Jammu Division were trained in the Physical Mode during the program being conducted in the training hall of J&K CEO Office at Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu. Similarly, 134 Nodal Officers from Kashmir Division were trained during the training program being held in online mode from the office of J&K CEO in Jammu.

Addressing the trainees, Chief Electoral Officer exhorted upon the Nodal Officers to work in tandem to ensure that the provisions of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) are implemented in toto during Assembly Election and Election Expenditure Monitoring is done effectively in true spirit so that the transparency and fairness of the electoral process is visible on ground and a level playing field is provided to the stakeholders.

The training provided to the Nodal Officers will prove to be crucial in upholding the integrity of the electoral processes and smooth conduct of the upcoming Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the CEO added.

During the training program, the national-level master trainers from India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) delivered lectures to all the trainees officers on topics related to MCC, MCM, Paid News, Social Media Apps, Election Expenditure Monitoring and others.

Additionally, the officials of Expenditure Division of Election Commission of India (ECI) gave a full session on Election Seizure Management System to the trainee officers in Jammu and the same theme of training was also followed in the Kashmir Division.

Alliance with Cong...

October 1. The results will be declared on October 4.

Abdullah further said, "CPI(M)'s (MY) Tarigami is also with us. I hope our people are with us too and that we win with a huge majority to improve the lives of the people." Asked about Gandhi's assurance earlier in the day that it was the pri-

ority of the Congress and the INDIA bloc to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir; Abdullah expressed hope that full statehood with all powers would be restored.

"Statehood is very important for all of us. This has been promised to us. This state has witnessed bad days and we hope it will be restored with its full powers. For that, we stand together with the INDIA bloc," he said.

Questioned if the two parties had agreed to any common minimum programme, the National Conference president said there was no question of a common minimum programme. "Our common programme is to fight the elections to defeat the divisive forces that exist in the country," he said.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state also did not rule out the presence of the Mehbooba Mufti-led People's Democratic Party in a pre- or post-poll alliance.

"Let us first go through the polls, then we will look into those things," Abdullah said. "No doors are closed for anybody." When questioned on the seat-share arrangement, he sought patience. "Everything will come out before the first phase," he said.

Abdullah also refused to answer if he would contest the elections.

The former Union minister said he was very happy that the meeting with the Congress leadership was held in a cordial atmosphere.

"To tell you honestly, my heart is very happy today because the way we attempted to make this country stronger in a cordial atmosphere," Abdullah added.

Justice Tashi Rabstan...

Trainees actively posed questions on managing conflicts of interest, balancing personal beliefs with professional responsibilities, and navigating ethical dilemmas in the courtroom. The Chief Justice's responses provided practical advice and valuable perspectives on these complex issues. The session was met with enthusiastic participation from the trainees, who expressed deep appreciation for the Chief Justice's candid and insightful discourse. Many trainees noted that the interaction significantly enhanced their understanding of the ethical and procedural standards expected of them as future judicial officers.

Justice Tashi impressed upon the trainees to visit Home for old aged and infirm persons at Amphalla, Jammu and interact with the inmates not only to gain wisdom but also to learn from their experiences.

Justice Tashi said that it is inspiring to see the commitment and dedication of these future members of the judiciary. He further stated that this profession demands unwavering integrity and a deep sense of responsibility, and he is confident that these trainees are well-prepared to uphold these values.

The Chief Justice's address was both motivational and educational. It provided the trainees with a clear vision of the standards required to be met and the ethical considerations to be upheld.

Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, Yash Paul Bournay, Director, J&K Judicial Academy and M.K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice were also present during the interaction.

Er Rashid-led...

consultation with the people, following the directions of Rashid, ensuring that these candidates are chosen by the people themselves," he said.

Nabi said the party is also preparing to release its manifesto in the coming days.

The AIP spokesperson said Abdul Qayoom Mir will contest from Pampore while Harbaksh Singh, who quit the PDP on Tuesday, will contest from Tral.

He said Sofi Iqbal will contest from Pulwama, Molvi Fayaz Wagay from Zainapora in Shopian, Mohammad Arif Dar from DH Pora in Kulgam, Suhail Bhat from Devsar in Kulgam, Hilal Ahmad Malik from Dooru in Anantnag, Aqib Mushtaq from Anantnag West and Tawseef Nisar from Anantnag.

Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated National Conference vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah in the Lok Sabha polls from north Kashmir's Baramulla seat. Rashid is currently in Tihar Jail on terror charges.

J&K Bank's long...

the evolving needs of our customers and stakeholders. The stable outlook also reinforces our commitment to maintaining a robust financial profile while contributing to the economic growth of our operational geographies."

"The improving socio-political environment in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh has really played a crucial role in our progress. And with continued support of our major share holder i.e. J&K UT Government, we will remain steadfast in our mission to support and drive the economic transformation of the region to see tourism, agriculture and small businesses not only grow but flourish", he added.

According to India Ratings, the upgrade reflects the bank's enhanced capital buffers, continued improvement in its profitability profile, supported by the improving socio-political environment in its core business geographies . The rating continues to highlight the bank's strong market position and franchise in the UTs of J&K and Laddakh.

Excessive bail is...

circumstances of each case.

Referring to the case, the bench said the petitioner was experiencing a "genuine difficulty" in finding multiple sureties.

It observed that sureties were essential to ensure the presence of the accused who has been released on bail.

"At the same time, when the court is faced with the situation where the accused enlarged on bail is unable to find sureties, as ordered, in multiple cases, there is also a need to balance the requirement of furnishing the sureties with his or her fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," it said.

The bench, which referred to definition of 'surety', noted whether it was to get individuals to stand as a guarantor for a loan transaction or as a surety in a criminal proceeding, the choice for a person was very limited.

It said surety would very often be a close relative or a longtime friend and in a criminal proceeding, the circle may get even more narrowed as the normal tendency was to not disclose about such proceeding to relatives and friends, to protect one's reputation.

Restoration of statehood...

him whether he liked the people of J-K. "I told them that no I do not like the people of J&K, I love them."

Gandhi said it is his mission to "erase the pain and fear in the hearts of the people of J-K". Later, the Congress leader held an interaction with the party workers in Jammu, and told them that he considers himself their soldier in New Delhi. He added his doors are always open for party workers describing them as "the lions of the Congress". Taking a dig at the prime minister, Gandhi said Narendra Modi's body language and confidence have drastically changed after the parliamentary poll results.

The LoP in the Lok Sabha told the Congress workers, "You know my relationship with you. It is not a political connection. It is a relationship of love and that of my family's background. My family comes from your state."

"So, you should always feel that you have a sepoy in Delhi. I am your sepoy. Whatever you need, my doors are always open for you," he said. "You only have to give me an order, and I will be present before you." Referring to the party leaders as his 'generals' and the workers as 'sepoys', he emphasised that both must be respected in all situations, including during alliances with other parties.

Shree Machail Mata...

Kishtwar paid a visit to Machail, offering prayers at the revered Shree Chandi Mata Darbar for the peace and prosperity of the people of Kishtwar. During his visit, he conducted a thorough review of the arrangements made by the district administration for the convenience of the pilgrims attending the Yatra.

The security arrangements, overseen by SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom have been robust, ensuring the safety of all pilgrims enroute. The enhanced facilities have been widely appreciated by the devotees, who have expressed their satisfaction with the administration's efforts. Significant improvements this year include the extension of the road up to Chashoti, reducing the trekking distance and making the journey less strenuous. The availability of 4G connectivity, helicopter services, and online registration has further streamlined the pilgrimage, allowing devotees to focus on their spiritual journey with ease. The district administration has prioritized the comfort and well-being of the pilgrims by providing clean and hygienic accommodation facilities. The Yatri Bhawan and Sapphire Guest House at Gulabgarh, along with the Yatri Sarai, various tent accommodations, and local stay houses near the Chandi Mata Bhawan in Machail, have been well-equipped to meet the needs of the devotees. The administration has also ensured the availability of clean bathrooms, food/langars by devotees, Medical booths and other essential services. The administration has appealed to all Yatris to adhere to the guidelines and stay informed by visiting the official website for online registration and updated information. To ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage, the Deputy Commissioner has urged pilgrims to carry their Aadhar cards and follow the new timing guidelines as issued on the website. The district administration remains committed to providing a seamless and spiritually fulfilling experience for all devotees participating in the Shree Machail Yatra 2024.

J&K AAP's provincial vice president resigns

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Provincial Vice President of Aam Admi Party (AAP) Subhash Chander Sharma on Thursday resigned from the post and the primary membership of the party.

In a statement issued here, Sharma sent a letter to the AAP national convenor, Arvind Kejriwal stating that he has resigned from the post of Provincial Vice President Aam Aadmi Party J&K as well as from its primary membership.

The letter reads, "I am writing to tender my resignation from the position of Provincial Vice President of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as from my primary membership with the party. This decision is driven by my concerns over the party's policies and its non-Jammu and Kashmir-centric approach. I believe that the current direction of AAP does not align with the specific needs and interests of our region. Consequently, I feel unable to continue my association with the party. Thank you for the opportunities I have had during my tenure."



Narco smuggler nabbed with 1.23 kg heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a relentless pursuit against drug peddlers, Jammu Police under the operation "Sanjeevani," made a significant recovery apprehending one Gulzar



SP South Ajay Sharma briefing media on Thursday.

Hussain, son of Hassan Din, resident of Baghyal Dhara , District Poonch with approximately 1 kg 230 grams of heroin.

Briefing media, SP South Ajay Sharma said that a team led by SHO Police Station Bahu fort and Incharge Police Post Narwal culminated in the arrest of the accused in the Narwal area.

In this connection, a case FIR No. 200/2024 U/S 8/21/22 of NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bahu Fort, the commercial recovery has been a decisive step towards curbing the drug trade in the area which has a few drug hotspots in the surroundings. The recovery was made under the supervision of SDPO East and SP South.

Kidnapped minor girl recovered, juvenile apprehended

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Police has recovered a kidnapped minor girl from Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh) in a kidnapping case registered at Police Station Samba and apprehended the juvenile.

A written complaint was lodged at Police Station Samba by the mother of kidnapped girl, a resident of Diani district Samba, stating therein that her daughter, age about 13 years, has been kidnapped by some unknown person.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No. 211/2024 u/s 137(2) BNS got registered at Police Station Samba and search was started to trace the said kidnapped girl.

Special teams of PS Samba under DySPHQrs led by SHO PS Samba and IC PP Sideo conducted raids at different places and finally after hectic efforts coupled with technical analysis, Police has succeeded in tracing out the said kidnapped girl from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh alongwith juvenile. The juvenile has also been apprehended by the police.

Police recovers online defrauded amount of Rs 2,05,000

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: District Cyber Cell Kathua under overall supervision of SSP Kathua has demonstrated its commitment to combat cyber crime by recovering online defrauded amount of Rs 2,05,000.

Brief facts of the case are that on 30/05/2024, an offline complaint was lodged in Cyber Cell Kathua in which a complainant namely Sant Ram Gupta R/o Ward No.1 Kathua reported that fraudster impersonating himself as his nephew on call asked him to transfer an amount of Rs 2,20,000 and he transferred the amount to two different fraudster accounts.

During the investigation, the Cyber Cell Kathua team acted swiftly and exhibited hectic efforts and freed the said fraudster accounts. The defrauded amount of Rs 2,05,000 has been recovered and credited back to the account of victim.

Huge quantity of country-made illicit liquor seized, 2 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Police in Anantnag have seized huge quantity of illicit country-made liquor at Bijbehara and arrested 02 persons involved in its production and distribution.

Acting on a specific tip-off, a team of officers from Anantnag Police conducted a raid at Pazzalpora, Bijbehara, near Jadoo Point, leading to the seizure of approximately 950 litres of illicit country-made liquor. The operation also uncovered various equipment and materials used in the illegal production process.

During the operation, 02 persons identified as Azad Singh and Suraj Chohan, originally from Akola, Maharashtra, and currently residing in Pazzalpora, Bijbehara, have been arrested. A case vide FIR No. 168/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Bijbehara and investigation has been initiated.

Hit and run case solved, accused held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ARNIA: Police on Thursday solved a ht & run case by arresting the accused.

On 19th August 2024, an accident occurred in the jurisdiction of police station Arnia, in the bordering Allah village, in which the accused person was later identified as Shubham Choudhary son of Ajit Ram, riding light motor vehicle had hit two motorcycles, then by leading to severe injuries to the motorcycle owners and pillion riders, totalling 5 in numbers.

During the course of investigation one of the riders namely Kamaljit, died during his treatment.

In the meanwhile the accused was also undergoing treatment after having some minor injuries. Yesterday the people of Border Police post Allah protested in this regard, demanding the arrest of the accused.

Sensing the gravity of the situation, the police quickly arrested the accused in this case, who was believed to be evading his arrest.

It is pertinent to mention that the parents of the deceased had also, put for their genuine demand to arrest the accused person as per the law.

Today police personnel of police station Arnia, led by SHO Arnia, arrested the accused person and have given instant justice to the family of the of the deceased and the other injured persons undergoing treatment.

Man arrested with poppy straw

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI : A man driving a vehicle has been arrested by police alongwith a consignment of poppy straw in Kotranka area of Rajouri district.

Police said that during naka checking at Thana Gali near Petrol Pump Kotranka, one vehicle bearing registration number JK03B 2670 driven by driver namely Mohd Younis son of Shams Din resident of Dhar Sakri was intercepted.

During checking approx 01 KG of popy straw was recovered.

Police had taken cognizance in the matter and accused person is arrested.

A police team headed by SHO Kandi made the arrest with further backward and forward links are being looked into.