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J&K, Haryana Assembly Polls: BJP's CEC meets to finalise candidates

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC) met on Sunday evening to finalise the party's candidates for the upcoming assembly polls.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president J P Nadda were joined by other CEC members, including Home Minister Amit Shah, as they deliberated with party leaders from Jammu and Kashmir.

Last week, the J&K leaders had held a long meeting with Nadda and Shah, among others, to narrow down the list of probable candidates and strategise for the polls.

The CEC will later be holding meeting with Haryana leaders to finalise party candidates for the assembly polls.

The 90-member assembly of the Union Territory



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president J P Nadda and others during BJP's Central Election Committee meeting at New Delhi on Sunday.

of Jammu and Kashmir is going to the polls in three phases on September 18 and 25 and October 1.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the total electorate stands at approximately 87.09 lakh, according to the draft roll published on July 25, 2024.

The gender distribution includes around 44.46 lakh male voters and 42.62 lakh female voters. The draft roll also underscores the presence of a substantial young voter base, with around 3.71 lakh first-time voters aged 18-19 years and 20.7 lakh voters aged 20-29 years.

Additionally, the region records 82,590 persons with disabilities (PwDs), 2,660 centenarians, 73,943 voters aged 85 years and above, and 169

third-gender voters.

The ease of voting for Kashmiri migrants introduced during the recent Lok Sabha polls will be in place for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls as well.

The 90-member assembly of Haryana will go to the polls on October 1.

The counting of votes is scheduled for October 4.

In the last assembly elections held in 2014, when Jammu and Kashmir was a full-fledged state, the BJP had won 25 seats.

The party is making all out efforts to fend off the challenge from a resurgent Congress, which has tied up with the National Conference, especially in the Jammu region, a BJP bastion since 2014.

The BJP is also facing a strong challenge from the Congress in Haryana where it is in power since 2014.

Crimes against women unpardonable sin: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS
JALGAON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed crimes against women an unpardonable sin, adding the guilty should not be spared.

Modi's strong remarks follow protests against the brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital and the sexual abuse of two four-year-old school girls in Badlapur near Mumbai.

Speaking at the 'Lakshmi Didi Sammelan' in north Maharashtra's Jalgaon, Modi said the safety of women should be a priority.

"The safety of mothers, sisters, and daughters is the country's priority. I have repeatedly raised this issue from the Red Fort. Be it any state of the country, I understand the pain and anger of my sisters and daughters," he said.

Modi said that he would tell every political party and



state government that crime against women is an unpardonable sin. Whoever is guilty should not be spared, he added.

"Those helping the perpetrators of crimes against women should not be spared. Be it a hospital, school, government or police station, at whatever level negligence occurs, everyone should be held accountable.

"The message should go from top to bottom. This sin is unpardonable. Governments will come and go, but protecting life and women's dignity is a big responsibility of all of us, both as a society and as a government," Modi said.

Modi said his government has done more for women in the last ten years than all the previous regimes since Independence.

"Till 2014, less than Rs 25,000 crore loans were given to women self-help groups but in the last 10 years, Rs 9 lakh crore help was given," Modi said.

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Don't field candidates against NC-Cong nominees in J&K polls, our agenda same: Omar to PDP

STATE TIMES NEWS
GANDERBAL: NC vice president Omar Abdullah on Sunday claimed the PDP has copied his party's manifesto and asked the Mehbooba Mufti-led party to not field candidates against NC-Congress nominees for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir as their agenda is the same.

Abdullah's remarks came a day after Mehbooba said the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) would extend complete support to the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance and leave all seats in the elections for the coalition if it

accepts her party's agenda.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was addressing NC workers in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, where activist Sayim Mustafa joined the party.

Abdullah said the NC has prepared an extensive manifesto for the assembly polls which has been copied by other parties.

"We have not left out anything in the manifesto. Today, everyone has copied our manifesto. They should have kept some differences," he said, referring to the PDP's manifesto which was released by Mehbooba

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India, Indonesia resolve to boost anti-terror cooperation

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India and Indonesia have condemned the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism amid Pakistan's support to terror groups carrying out terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The issue of cross-border terrorism figured at the sixth meeting of the India-Indonesia joint working group on counter-terrorism that was held in Jakarta on Friday.

The two sides focused on ways to effectively combat terrorism, including how to stop the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"India and Indonesia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasised the need for strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner," it said in a statement on Sunday.

The MEA said the two sides also condemned the "use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism."

"The two sides exchanged views on the domestic, regional and global terrorism threat assessment," it said.



"They discussed counter-terrorism challenges related to the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, misuse of internet for terrorist purposes, terror financing, and the nexus between organised crime and terrorism," the MEA said.

It said the two sides also exchanged views on cooperation in regional, global and multilateral fora such as the UN, ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum) and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) to combat global terrorism.

The Indian delegation at the meeting was led by K D Dewal, Joint Secretary (Counter-Terrorism) in the MEA.

The Indonesian team was headed by Andhika Chrisnayudhanto, Deputy for International Cooperation at the National Counter Terrorism Agency.

DPAP releases 1st list of 13 candidates for J&K assembly polls

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR/JAMMU: The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Sunday released its first list of 13 candidates for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

This will be the maiden assembly elections for the party floated by the former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K Ghulam Nabi Azad. The party's General Secretary (Organisation) R S Chib released the list.

The party has decided to field former J&K minister Abdul Majeed Wani from the Doda East assembly constituency, former MLA Mohammad Amin Bhat from Devsar, former J&K Advocate General Mohammad Aslam Goni from Bhaderwah, DDC member Saleem Parry from Dooru and Muneer Ahmed Mir from Lolab.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also came out with its list of seven candidates for the assembly elections.

The DPAP said DDC member Bilal Ahmed Deva will be its candidate from Anantnag West, Ghulam Nabi Wani (Nellora) from Rajpora, Mir Altaf Hussain from Anantnag and

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LG greets people on Janmashtami



STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on auspicious occasion of Janmashtami.

In his message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all. Lord Shri Krishna embodies devotion, righteousness and wisdom. His teachings inspire all of us to rededicate ourselves for righteous action and to build a just society.

May the festival usher in happiness, prosperity, well-being of all and inspire us to lead a virtuous life. Jai Shri Krishna!"

By allying with NC, does Cong want stone-pelting back: MP CM

STATE TIMES NEWS
INDORE: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday asked the Congress if it wanted to bring back the era of stone pelting in Jammu-Kashmir by allying with the National Conference for the assembly polls there.

Polls to the 90-member J-K assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1, while results will be announced on October 4.

NC chief Farooq Abdullah has announced a pre-poll alliance with the Congress for the assembly elections in

Jammu and Kashmir, which is going to the polls for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"Does the Congress want to push Jammu-Kashmir back into the era of stone-pelting with this electoral alliance? The Congress has abandoned constitutional values and is working only on the basis of vote bank politics," said Yadav, who was here as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's membership campaign workshop.

"Everybody knows the character of the National Conference and Farooq

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Wanted gangster escapes from police custody

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA/JAMMU: A hardcore gangster escaped from police custody in Samba district, officials said on Sunday.

Mohd Latief alias Latief Punjabi, a resident of Malpur in the Hoshiarpur district of Punjab, was arrested near his rented house in Chak Dayala near Basantar bridge on Thursday, police said.

A pistol and five cartridges were seized from him, they said.

He was lodged at Rakh Amb Tali police post from where he escaped

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NC, PDP can't ensure Art 370 restoration, fooling J&K voters: Srinivasan



BJP Mahila Morcha President Vanathi Srinivasan addressing meeting of J&K Mahila Morcha at party headquarters.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Mahila Morcha president Vanathi Srinivasan on Sunday said it "impossible" for the opposition parties NC and PDP to ensure Article 370 restoration but they are fooling people by guaranteeing it in their manifesto for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections.

Addressing reporters after a meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Mahila Morcha at the BJP headquarters here in the run-up to the assembly polls, Srinivasan said the younger generation in the union territory want a peaceful life and development, which can only be ensured by her party.

In its manifesto, the National Conference (NC) mentioned 12 guarantees, including the restoration of Article 370 and Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, while People's Democratic Party (PDP) promised to

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Delhi: Five AAP MCD Councillors join BJP

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Five MCD Councillors of the Aam Aadmi Party joined BJP in the presence of senior leaders of the party's Delhi unit.

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, in a media briefing during the joining, alleged that these Councillors were troubled due to pressure to indulge in corruption and gather crowds for AAP leaders.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi councillors who switched sides to the BJP included Ramechandra (Ward 28), Pawan Sehrawat (Ward 30), Mamata Pawan (Ward 177), Sugandha Bidhuri (Ward 178) and Manju Nirmal of Ward 180, a statement from the Delhi BJP said.

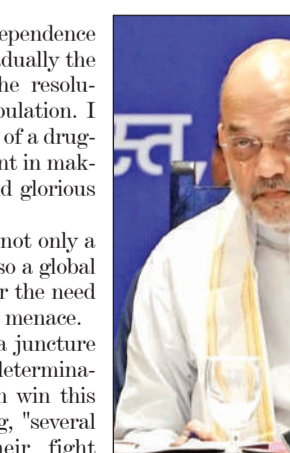
Illicit drug trade global issue; India can fight it if we pursue with determination, strategy: Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAIPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the illegal narcotics trade is not only a challenge for India but also a global issue, stressing that the country can combat the menace if it pursues with determination and strategy.

The money generated through the illicit narcotics trade is also used for anti-national activities like spreading terrorism and Naxalism and weakening the country's economy, he said.

Addressing a meeting at a hotel in Nava Raipur on the scenario of narcotics substances in Chhattisgarh, Shah emphasised the need to adopt four formulas of drug detection, network destruction, culprit detention and addict rehabilitation in achieving success.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make the country drug-free in 2047 when the 100th



year of the country's independence will be celebrated and gradually the resolution has become the resolution of the 130 crore population. I believe that the resolution of a drug-free India is very important in making a prosperous, safe and glorious India, Shah said.

The illicit drug trade is not only a challenge for India but also a global issue, he said, pitching for the need to raise awareness of this menace.

"This battle is at such a juncture that if we pursue with determination and strategy, we can win this fight," he said, cautioning, "several countries have lost their fight against it".

The problem of narcotics in India is not just a problem of illicit drugs, but it is also linked to national security. Besides aiming at destroying youth, the money generated through the trade is also used for anti-national activities like spread-

ing terrorism and Naxalism and weakening the country's economy, he said.

"It is also our national responsibility to make the country drug-free with a zero-tolerance policy," he said.

Shah also expressed concerns over the use of narcotic substances in Chhattisgarh.

He said the percentage of sedative use in Chhattisgarh is 1.45 which is more than the national average. Chhattisgarh has reported 4.98 per cent use of ganja which is more than the national average of 2.83 per cent and it is a matter of concern, he said.

"Chhattisgarh shares its borders with seven states, including Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, from where drug smuggling is done. Chhattisgarh is also close to the Bay of Bengal and the coastal connectivity of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh creates a drug trade route," he said.

Drug smugglers are changing the trend and shifting from natural drugs to synthetic ones which cause maximum harm, said Shah.

He further stressed the need for focusing on scientific investigation with a 'top-to-bottom' and 'bottom-to-top' approach in dismantling the drug trade network.

"If a packet of drugs is found in a small shop, then we will have to investigate from where it came and where it was manufactured. To dismantle the background of this entire system, we will have to develop the habit of doing investigations scientifically. We will have to adopt a top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top approach," he said.

The Union minister said all rehabilitation and de-addiction centres should be a key part of the fight against the drug menace.

"The one who consumes drugs is a victim of the system and the one who deals in drugs is a criminal. Keeping this in mind, we will have to fight against narcotics, he said.

The Union minister underscored the need to strengthen the drug detection

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 35.0°C Min: 25.8°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 64

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 33.0°C Min: 17.1°C

Humidity
Max: 72 Min: 30

Sunset: 19:04 Hours
Sunrise: 06:00 Hours