

RC reviews preparations for Assembly elections

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (RC) (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani on Wednesday chaired a meeting with Relief Organization officers and political party representatives to review preparations for the upcoming Assembly Elections-2024.

Dr Karwani emphasized on ensuring all requisite Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all designated Special Polling Stations viz. permanent ramps, drinking water, toilet facilities as per norms of Election Commission of India.

He emphasized on reaching out to the voters and ensuring all necessary facilitation. Pertinent to mention that the Election Commission of India Vide Notification No-3/J&K-LA/2024 dated 22-08-2024, has notified the



Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani chairing a meeting.

scheme for Kashmiri Migrants to Vote in person at notified Special Polling Stations and voting by means of postal ballots pertaining to the General Election to Assembly Constituencies falling in Kashmir Province of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. As per the notified scheme 19 Special Polling Stations in Jammu and 01 in Udhampur have been mapped to the Camps/Zones

individually, ensuring that every Zone has atleast one special polling station.

The intra-zonal jurisdiction for each such polling station has been earmarked keeping in mind the distance/ease of approach for each set of electors.

All electors within seven days of the notification of the draft electoral roll extract, can approach the respective Assistant Returning Officers

(Migrant) at Jammu and Udhampur, or their respective Zonal Officers (Nodal Officers)/Booth Level Officers (BLO's), in case his/her name does not figure in the draft electoral roll extract, or in case any elector wishes to opt for voting through postal ballot or vote at original polling station in Kashmir valley.

Further, Deputy Director Horticulture (P&M) and

Deputy Secretary in the Office of Resident Commissioner, have also been appointed as the ARO for the receipt of applications, conduct of poll etc at the special polling stations provided in Delhi.

Any 'notified voter' who wishes to vote by post is required to make an application for postal ballot in Form 12-C appended to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to any of the AROs at least 10 days before the date of poll in the in the Assembly constituency in which he is registered as elector.

The ARO Migrant at Jammu has been made solely responsible for handling these applications.

Dr Karwani, appreciated the suggestions put forth by the representatives of political parties, regarding facilitation of migrant voters.

Army organizes lecture on women equality



Army official addressing students on the occasion of Women's Equality Day.

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH : Army, on the occasion of Women's Equality Day, which is celebrated annually on August 28, conducted an celebration event based on the theme 'Gender equality today for sustainable tomorrow', to promote the agenda of women equality and women empowerment, at Lasana Poonch district. In the view of the event a lecture was conducted for students to promote gender

equality, women's empowerment and to raise awareness about the importance of women's participation in all aspects of society including Armed forces. It is also a time to acknowledge the contributions of women throughout history and in contemporary society.

During the lecture impetus was also given to women entry in Armed Forces and CAPF via various schemes. Girl students

were motivated to enrol for competing in the entrance exams for the same.

The girls students have appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army to educate them on these relevant schemes and conveyed their gratitude for the same.

They added that these lectures are their source of learning things of which they are mostly ignorant. Same will help them in long term in improving their vision and standard of living.

Army conducts mobile medical patrol



Army doctor examining patients at mobile medical patrol.

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI : Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrols in the villages of Ranjali, Lam. The locals of this village who are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their geographic isolation and challenging terrains, benefited immensely from this initiative which contributed to the overall well-being of the locals who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates. The mobile medical patrols, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas to provide

healthcare with compassion. The primary objective was to provide on-the-spot medical care, including basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments and distribution of necessary medications. The medical patrol also focused on preventive healthcare by offering immunizations and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The Mobile Medical Patrol provided special attention to vulnerable sections of the population, such as children and the elderly. By ensuring that these groups receive timely and appropriate medical attention, the Indian Army helped to mitigate the risk

of complications that could arise from untreated health issues. The response from the local population has been overwhelmingly positive. Villagers expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps. Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrols play a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian Army and the local communities and fosters trust and goodwill. The proactive approach in medical assistance helps to prevent onset of diseases and also reduces the healthcare burden on the individuals and the system. It hence reassures the residents of the Indian Army's commitment to their welfare and security, thereby enhancing the sense of safety and community cohesion. A total of 43 villagers (27 Male, 13 Female and 11 Children) were benefitted by the mobile medical patrol.

Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation amplifies "Adopt a Tree" campaign across J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation (SGWF) is making significant strides in its "Adopt a Tree" campaign, a key environmental initiative aimed at fostering ecological responsibility across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The latest drive took place at Chouki Chora, where the campaign gained momentum with active community participation and leadership. The recent drive at Chouki Chora was led by Makhani Verma, General Secretary of SGWF, with strategic oversight from Dr. Sonia Verma, Director/CEO, and technical guidance from Mrs. Reeta Verma, National President. This collaborative effort reflects the foundation's commitment to mobilizing communities in the fight against environmental degradation. SGWF's "Adopt a Tree" campaign is designed with a clear objective: to encourage individuals and communities to plant and care for trees, contributing to a greener and healthier environment. With a target of adopting 25,000 trees within a year, the foundation is focusing on strategic locations



SGWF members during "Adopt a Tree" campaign.

across J&K, ensuring that each tree planted receives the necessary care and attention to thrive.

The Chouki Chora drive saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of women from different villages. These women were appraised by Mrs. Makhani Verma about the critical importance of the "Adopt a Tree" campaign. Verma highlighted how the initiative empowers women to take an active role in environmental conservation, turning them into custodians of nature in their communities. "Women play a vital role in nurturing life, and through this campaign, they are extending that care to the environment. Their involvement is crucial to the

success of our mission," she remarked. The "Adopt a Tree" campaign is not just about planting trees; it's about building a sustainable relationship between the community and the environment. Reeta Verma highlighted the importance of this connection, stating, "When individuals adopt a tree, they are making a personal commitment to the environment. It's not just about planting a sapling; it's about nurturing it and ensuring it grows to its full potential, contributing to the overall health of our ecosystem." Dr. Sonia Verma elaborated on the long-term vision of the campaign, emphasizing that the trees planted under this initiative will play a crucial role in

enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality, and combating climate change. "Our goal is to create green corridors and urban forests that will serve as the lungs of our cities and towns. By adopting a tree, each participant becomes a guardian of nature, helping to secure a sustainable future for generations to come." In addition to the plantation drives, SGWF is also focusing on educational outreach as part of the "Adopt a Tree" campaign. Workshops and awareness programs are being organized to educate communities about the importance of tree planting, the benefits of different tree species, and best practices for tree care. This knowledge-sharing aspect ensures that the trees planted are well-maintained and contribute positively to the environment. Following the success of the campaign in various districts, SGWF plans to expand the "Adopt a Tree" initiative to more remote and underserved areas. The foundation is working closely with local leaders, schools, and community organizations to identify potential sites for future plantation drives, aiming to create a wide-

spread impact across the UT. The campaign was launched by Sham Lal Sharma, Chief Patron of SGWF, on Raksha Bandhan, a festival symbolizing protection and care. By integrating the campaign with cultural and religious events, SGWF is reinforcing the message that environmental conservation is an integral part of our cultural heritage and moral responsibility. SGWF invites individuals, families, schools, and organizations to join the "Adopt a Tree" campaign. Participants are encouraged to plant a tree in honor of a loved one, or as a personal commitment to the environment.

The foundation provides ongoing support, including guidance on tree selection, planting techniques, and maintenance, ensuring that every tree adopted has the best chance to flourish. SGWF is a leading environmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable practices, ecological balance, and community development. The foundation's innovative initiatives aim to connect cultural traditions with environmental stewardship, creating a more sustainable future for all.

Police, General Observers inspect Strong Rooms, Election Facilities in Doda District

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: In preparation for the upcoming General Assembly Election 2024, the General Observer Aditya Negi and Police Observer Dharamvir for Doda District conducted a thorough inspection of Strong Rooms for AC-51 (Bhaderwah), AC-52 (Doda), and AC-53 (Doda West) here today.



Police, General Observers inspecting Strong Rooms, Election Facilities in Doda District.

The observers were accompanied by District Election Officer (DEO) Harvinder Singh, DIG DKR Shridhar Patil and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mohd Aslam, besides Returning Officers and other election officials.

The inspection aimed to ensure that all arrange-

ments are in place for the secure storage and management of election materials and to assess the preparedness of the district for the first phase of the Assembly elections 2024.

In addition to inspecting the strong rooms, the observers also visited key

facilities including the Media Cell, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC), Election Control Room, and Video Viewing Room, ensuring that all systems are in place for effective communication and monitoring during the elec-

tions. Dharamvir emphasized the importance of robust security measures and coordination among various departments to facilitate a smooth electoral process.

Aditya Negi added "The preparations are on track, and we are dedicated to

upholding the democratic process through vigilant oversight."

The inspection focused on the evaluation of security protocols, logistical arrangements, and infrastructure at Strong Rooms. Special emphasis was placed on fortifying security measures to safeguard against potential threats.

The Police Observer was comprehensively briefed by the officers present regarding the security measures and other arrangements in place, and it was informed that the district administration had diligently implemented all necessary measures in compliance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

DM takes stock of logistics in Police Lines Kishtwar



DM Kishtwar, Rajesh Shavan visiting District Police Line.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: District Magistrate Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today undertook maiden visit to District Police Line after taking over the office.

The District Magistrate was received by SSP Abdul Qayoom, Dy SP DAR Sajjad

Khan, senior officers of CAPF camping in the Lines and other concerned officers of Police.

A threadbare discussion ensued about the functioning of the line focusing on the issues related to security and logistics. The officers put forth their

views and also shared their concerns related to HR management.

The DM also took a round of the premises and assessed the availability of civic amenities and other facilities. He ordered immediate repair of the toilets by CAPF for convenience of the Police Personnel and sanctioned the requisite amount. He assured full support to the police functionaries in discharge of their challenging duties and maintenance of law & order by taking reviews on regular intervals.

Later, the DM and SSP also inspected two other CAPF camps and listened to the grievances of the Jawans. The DM also assessed the accommodation facilities of the CAPF.

Mega SVEEP program held at Govt High School Surni

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: In line with the directives from District Election Officer Saloni Rai, the Electoral Registration Officer (SDM) Ramnagar, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, has laid out a comprehensive plan for SVEEP activities to ensure maximum voter awareness and participation in the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections scheduled for 1st October 2024.

The first phase of this initiative began today at High

School Surni, where an impactful SVEEP program was successfully conducted, engaging around 300 people including future voters.

The event aimed to educate and inspire voters on the importance of their participation in the democratic process, utilizing a mix of engaging and culturally resonant activities. The program featured Nukkad Natak thought-provoking speeches by students, and vibrant cultural performances, including traditional Dogri folk songs. These activities not only entertained but also effectively communicated the crucial message of voter participation and the significance of every vote in the upcoming elections. The event among others was attended by Vijay Kumar, Headmaster of High School Surni, Zaffar Iqbal, Naib Tehsildar Dalsar and locals. The Nodal Officer for SVEEP, AC-62 Ramnagar, Rakesh Kumar (Lecturer of Physical Education), addressed the gathering;

stressing the critical role that voting plays in a democracy. He encouraged the voters not only to cast their votes in the forthcoming elections but also to motivate others in their community to do the same, thereby strengthening the democratic process. Naib Tehsildar Dalsar and Headmaster High School Surni also expressed their thoughts on the topic, who reiterated the importance of electoral participation in the government formation. They stressed on the students to carry the message to their villages and hamlets and aware their parents and relatives.

The program concluded with a collective voter's pledge, affirming their commitment to participate on polling day.

The success of this SVEEP program has left a lasting impression on the community, significantly boosting awareness and enthusiasm among the voters of the area as they prepare for the elections on 1st October 2024.

DEO Rajouri inspects Strong Rooms, election arrangements



DEO Rajouri Abhishek Sharma inspecting election preparation.

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma inspected the strong rooms designated for the Assembly Constituencies (AC) of Rajouri and Thanamandi here today. The inspections were carried out at the Government Degree College (GDC) Rajouri for AC Rajouri and at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Rajouri for Thanamandi AC.

The DEO emphasized the importance of stringent security measures and directed officials to maintain log book registers at the strong rooms.

He instructed that CCTV cameras be strategically placed to focus directly on the locks of the strong rooms, ensuring continuous surveillance. Further instructions were issued for the safety and integrity of the strong rooms, including the proper wiring around the rooms, ensuring single entrance for entry, preventing any dampness around the premises, and conducting a thorough fire audit of all strong rooms.

The DEO also reviewed the parking management for vehicles deployed for election duties, stressing the need for an efficient distribution plan

that prioritizes the farthest polling stations.

In addition to these measures, DEO Abhishek Sharma directed the concerned authorities to carry out Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities within the College to enhance voter awareness and participation.

He also directed to nominate the Nodal Officer of the Dispatch and Receipt centre (DCRC) and also adhere strictly to the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India (ECI) while performing their duties.

Accompanying the DEO during the inspection were Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir Khan; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Thanamandi, Abid Hussain; Executive Engineer PWD, Sardar Khan; District Information Officer Rajouri, Ashiq Rafiq Malik; and other district and sectoral officers.

Brainstorming session held to promote voter awareness in Hiranagar AC



BLOs taking pledge.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Election Authorities on Wednesday organised a brainstorming session with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) here in the Hiranagar Assembly constituency. Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) Hiranagar Shreya Sharma chaired the session, where BLOs shared and discussed innovative ideas and strategic plans aimed at significantly

increasing voter participation in upcoming elections. The BLOs assured to take actionable steps to engage and motivate the electorate.

To reaffirm their commitment towards the democratic process, the BLOs, under the guidance of the AERO, took a solemn pledge.

They reiterated to uphold the democratic traditions of India and ensure a free, fair, and peaceful election.

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