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03 Congress practised divisive politics in J&K, BJP ensured justice for all: Dr Jitendra

05 Senior J&K BJP leader resigns; to contest as Independent

09 Action taken against 5 Govt employees for involvement in political activities

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Foundation Day celebration of SMVDSB, Annual Day of SMVD Gurukul Character building vital to build Nation: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering during Foundation Day celebration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and SMVD Gurukul's annual day on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Observing that curiosity is the basis of life-long learning and to address the future challenges, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that character building is vital to build the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking while participating in the 39th Foundation Day celebration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Matrika Auditorium of SMVD

University.

The momentous occasion also marked the 14th annual day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor congratulated all the Members, officials and everyone associated with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and SMVD Gurukul on their achievements and contribution to inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor, who is the

Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, highlighted the measures taken by the Board for hassle-free pilgrimage and to enhance the spiritual experience of devotees.

Referring to the need for change in the education sector, the Lt Governor said that moral values and scientific thinking is essential for an enriched knowledge system.

He called upon the teachers to eliminate the fear of change and proactively adopt

new syllabus to ensure holistic education reaches all sections of society.

He lauded the efforts of Gurukul in creating a fine balance between pragmatic curriculum which is responsive to the needs of the modern world and spiritual upliftment through Vedic education.

"The learning traditions of ancient India had emphasised on education to develop the complete personality of students so they can become more creative. Our Gurukul education in the past was considered as a treasure of knowledge in science, mathematics and medicine. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul has ensured that education is more practical and also focuses on our values and ideals," the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor appreciated the contribution of Mahamandleshwar

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Shahid Saleem is new DC Shopian, Haseeb posted as MD J&K TDC

JAMMU: In compliance with the Election Commission of India's directive, the government on Friday transferred IAS and JKAS officers.

As per the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department, Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS (AGMUT:2018), Deputy Commissioner; Shopian, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation, relieving Vivekanand Rai, IAS, Director, Tourism,

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SSP Srinagar, SSP Baramulla among 7 officers transferred

JAMMU: In compliance with the Election Commission of India's directive, the government on Friday transferred of seven police officers. According to an order issued by Home Department, Gurinderpal Singh, SSP Baramulla (AGMUT-2013 IPS officer) has been transferred and posted as Incharge Director of Police Telecommunications; Shobhit Saxena

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J&K Assembly Elections Ph-1 25 candidates withdraw nominations, 219 in fray for 24 constituencies

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the last date of the withdrawal of nomination papers for the first phase of the forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024 in the 24 Assembly Constituencies, 25 candidates withdrew their Candidature in the Office of respective Returning Officers across seven districts on Friday.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K UT on Friday informed that out of the total 244 valid nominations, 25 candidates withdrew their Nominations on

the last date of withdrawal i.e. Friday, 30 August, 2024.

With this, only 219 validly Nominated Candidates now remain in fray for the 24 Assembly Constituencies where polling will be held in the first phase of the J&K Assembly Elections-2024 on 18 September, 2024.

7 candidates withdrew their nomination in Doda district, followed by 7 in Kishtwar district, 6 in Ramban district, 3 in Anantnag district, 1 in Kulgama district, and 1 in Pulwama district, while no candidate withdrew their nomination in Shopian district.

With this, 64 candidates remain in the final electoral fray in Anantnag district, followed by 45 in Pulwama district, 27 in Doda district, 25 in Kulgama district, 22 in Kishtwar district, 21 in Shopian district, while 15 candidates remain in the final fray in Ramban district.

In Kishtwar district, 9 candidates remain in the final electoral fray for election in 48-Inderwal AC; 7 candidates in 49-Kishtwar AC; while 6 candidates remain in the fray in 50-Padder-Nagseni AC. In Doda district, 10 candidates

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'NC-Cong alliance playing in Pak hands'

BJP promises peace and prosperity in J&K: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh who is also the party Prabhari for J&K on Friday cautioned the people of the Union Territory against the malicious designs of the NC-Congress alliance.

Addressing a meeting of the party workers, Chugh said the new alliance would bring back terrorism in J&K and the people would go back to the times of stones and bullets.



He said the Modi government's vision has given a new hope to the youth of J&K. Children have started aspiring for a promising career across the country. But the NC-Congress alliance would simply bring back the days of terror and fear across J&K. Chugh said the NC manifesto released by Abdullahs has already indicated that

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Nagrota murder accused thrashed by advocates

One accused loudly cried, "Yes, I killed driver what can you do?"

VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: Janipur Court Complex on Friday witnessed unruly scenes when eleven-member inter-state gang of criminals, involved in a Nagrota murder case, was taken for remand proceedings, with accused abusing and provoking the lawyers present.

The gang, primarily from Haryana and Punjab, was arrested for murdering Mangal Singh, a local cab driver, who had gone missing on August 19 while returning from Katra to Jammu. His body was later found in the Bajalta forests.

According to reports, one of the accused, in a provocative manner, loudly admitted to the crime before group of lawyers, shouting, "Yes, I



Brutal murder of Taxi driver: Eleven Inter-state gangsters arrested on August 24 in police custody. (file pic)

murdered him; what will you do?" This confession heightened the already tense atmosphere.

The provocative statement triggered a violent reaction from several advocates present in the court. Some of them are reported to have

physically thrashed the accused gangsters. The situation quickly spiraled out of control, with the advocates targeting the gangsters aggressively.

The Nagrota police team had a tough time in controlling the chaotic situation.

To tackle the escalating situation, police force deployed in the court complex also helped the Nagrota police team,

After the violence was contained, the accused were removed from the court complex and taken back to the Nagrota police station.

The 11-member gang of interstate gangsters, mostly from Haryana, were arrested on August 24, 2024 for killing a cab driver whose body was recovered from here.

The body of Mangal Singh, a resident of Jammu, was recovered from Bajalta forest on Friday, five days after he was reported missing while returning from Katra in Reasi district to

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BJP must understand what is at stake for it in J&K Assembly polls



DOST KHAN

JAMMU: A buzz is on in Jammu and Kashmir, how will it fare after the 2024 Assembly polls. This is paradoxically rooted in the simultaneous hope and despair at the possible outcome of the elections as no one is certain about the results, who all will be winners and losers. Everything will depend on the parties gaining power and those missing it. The concern is that it may result in a hung house, resulting in a coalition government. Various likely possibilities are already in motion, as the parties are not sure whether they can hope for a clear majority in the House of 90. The possibility of a coalition government coming up as a result of pre-poll or post-poll combinations is a

POLITICAL PULSE

scary scenario for J&K. The past experience has been quite bitter. This was bitter in politics but it also cast several dark shadows on the State, which is now a Union Territory. The fact of the matter is that dark shadows have not been lifted completely and there are signs of such dark eras returning with the political parties engaging in a crude battle over the future of J&K.

It's time BJP to understand the dynamics of what is at stake for it. The party will have to prove that it is different. It should show itself in a different frame than other parties. The 2024 polls are different from that of 2014 when BJP was seeking to upgrade its political and electoral status from 11 seats of 2008 elections - the party had

been able to win 11 seats because of its stellar role in being at the core of Amarnath land row agitation. The mass movement against the breach of faith caused by the then Government in Jammu and Kashmir was a rude shock to the majority community of Jammu. The agitation was a clear warning to the then Government, "enough is enough."

Much water has flown down Tawi river since. It was able to win 25 seats in 2014 polls. The political dividends were delivered to the party because of Modi wave that was sweeping the country, and the commitment of the party to do justice to Jammu region, ending decades of discrimination. The campaign was successful as the party stalwart Ram Madhav was behind the minute-to-minute planning, and BJP had chosen some

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"Congress-NC pushed J&K towards terrorism" Assembly elections movement for peace, development: Reddy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP In-Charge of J&K Assembly Elections, G. Kishan Reddy, on Friday highlighted the transformation in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370, saying prior to this historic move, the region was plagued by a lack of basic infrastructure, including electricity, roads, water connections, and housing for the poor.

"Local governance was virtually non-existent, with Panchayat and local self-governing elections rarely held. However, the implementation of the



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