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**Amit Shah urges...**

The home minister said that in 2024, India saw UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions worth about Rs 20,64,000 crore which is 46 per cent of the global digital transactions.

"This makes our work challenging and hence protection against cyber fraud is required," Shah said and flagged issues such as the illegal sale of important personal data over the Internet, the spread of fake news, tool kits, online harassment and abuse of women and children.

The minister said the '1930' national cyber helpline telephone number needs to be popularised during a special campaign being launched by the I4C from Wednesday to spread awareness about cybercrimes.

"We need to do more against this (cybercrimes)... we have reached a point but the target is far," he said.

At the event, the home minister spoke at length about the importance of preparing effective counter-measures against cybercrimes while asserting that the country's development was "impossible in current times" without keeping cybersecurity in mind.

"The increasing use of technology is also causing many threats. That is why cybersecurity is no longer limited to the digital world but has also become an important aspect of national security," he said.

Shah urged for "greater coordination" between the agencies of the centre and the states as this combat cannot be undertaken by one organisation alone. It is essential that "everyone comes together", he said.

Cybercrimes see "no boundary" and common people should be made aware of these offences, the Union home minister said. "I appeal to all state governments to join this movement and ensure that cyber awareness percolates to the grassroots level."

Stressing the importance of vigorously running awareness campaigns, Shah said never cyber frauds were being witnessed each day and even children are getting involved in these.

The government has planned to train and prepare 5,000 cyber commandos over the next five years to deal with such crimes, he added.

**Borders fully secure...**

IG reviewed election security at a meeting with 20 commanding officers of the force whose units are deployed across all the three districts, informing that traces of militancy were found in this area in the recent past.

"They (terrorists) are not in large numbers but since the area has vast forest cover, they are getting an opportunity to survive," he said, asking his men to be alert and foil any nefarious design of the terrorists.

**IGP chairs security....**

booths and strongrooms. The IGP Kashmir emphasized the need for close coordination with all security agencies and directed that proactive measures may be taken to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the electoral process, the spokesperson said.

Birdi also visited various camping locations of incoming CAPF Coys in Anantnag district and took stock of the arrangements made on the ground.

The visit concluded with a comprehensive review of the strategies and action plans devised to ensure the peaceful conduct of elections, the spokesperson added. The second and third phases of the polls are being held on September 25 and October 1 respectively, while the counting of the votes will be undertaken on October 8.

**J&K Assembly elections...**

and 6 seeking one vehicle per assembly segment for the party/party worker.

Also, 15 applications seeking Vehicle for star campaigners and party office bearers were accepted, along with 10 Vehicle Permission for transport of campaigning/publicity material by recognized political party and 40 Vehicle Permission for within AC.

Further, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Pandurang K Pole has urged upon the candidates and political parties participating in the Assembly Elections to utilize the 'Suvidha' application and platform, designed to streamline the application process for various permissions required during election campaigns.

The portal serves as a one-stop solution, empowering the candidates and political parties to apply for and obtain permissions efficiently and conveniently. With a user-friendly interface and robust features, the App simplifies the process, ensuring that all necessary permissions are acquired in a timely manner, thereby enabling seamless campaign activities.

For further information, the candidates and political parties can visit the portal at <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in>, the statement said.

**JKCA case: ED...**

decides to frame charges against Abdullah and five others for any of the scheduled offences, it shall be open for the ED to register a fresh case and launch prosecution.

The ED, as per the sources, filed this high court-directed application recently stating that the CBI "inadvertently missed/failed to specifically incorporate/mention the said offence under Section 411 and 424 of IPC".

The move comes at a time when assembly polls are being held in J&K and 86-year-old Abdullah's party, National Conference (NC), is in the fray along with other parties. Abdullah is the president of NC.

The ED, in its application, has requested the Srinagar court to frame fresh charges against the accused under the two stated sections saying it (Srinagar court) was vested with wide powers under section 216 of CrPC to "add/amend" charges and that "this can be exercised in appropriate cases, in the interest of justice".

Abdullah has been questioned multiple times by the agency in the case.

The ED had attached assets belonging to Abdullah and others worth Rs 21.55 crore.

The agency's case is based on a 2018 charge sheet filed by the CBI against the same accused.

The CBI charge sheet alleged "misappropriation of JKCA funds amounting to Rs 43.69 crore" from grants given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to promote the sport in the erstwhile state between 2002 and 2011.

The ED had earlier said its probe found that JKCA received Rs 94.06 crore from BCCI in three different bank accounts during financial years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012 (up to December 2011).

**BJP launches 'Har...**

on September 10 from the Jammu West assembly constituency in Jammu, along with Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, where BJP candidate Arvind Gupta is contesting. J&K BJP Working President Sat Sharma also participated in the Har Ghar Bhajpa Campaign in Ward no 41. The campaign witnessed a large number of supporters participating with great enthusiasm.

Chugh briefed about the purpose of the campaign and said, "This extensive outreach effort seeks to inform citizens

about the various schemes and policies introduced by the Narendra Modi-led government, which have contributed to peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. Through this campaign, the party also intends to educate voters on key developmental plans and the future roadmap for the region, as detailed in the party's manifesto, the 'Sankalp Patra', he said.

Chugh also mentioned that he will lead the campaign in Kishtwar and the Padder-Nagseni segment.

G Kishan Reddy, speaking on the occasion, said that through this intensive door-to-door campaign, the BJP aims to solidify its presence and connect directly with voters across the region, highlighting its achievements and future plans. He said that while the BJP is the first choice of people to form the government in Jammu & Kashmir, the purpose is to aware voters of the vision of the BJP for the better socio-economic development of the region. He also said that the growth, development, and peace in the region will be achieved, as outlined in the 'Sankalp Patra', and that the BJP is committed to fulfilling its poll promises for the people of J&K.

**ED makes third...**

Allaie routed the funds into the hands of terrorists linked to Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen for the "sole purpose of subversive activities."

The transaction profiling of the bank accounts found "huge cash deposits obtained via drug sales, routed through multiple suspected inter-connected transactions, disguising the actual source and nature of funds," the ED added.

**Modi stresses need...**

scientific advances and innovation ecosystem, as well as bridging the gap between academic research and industrial applications through industry-aligned translational research, the statement said.

The ANRF will launch programmes on solution-focussed research in mission mode in select priority areas such as electric vehicle mobility, advanced materials, solar cells, smart infrastructure, health and medical technology, sustainable agriculture and photonics.

The governing body observed that these efforts would impactfully supplement the march towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

While underscoring the translational research with active participation from the industry, the governing body also emphasised promoting fundamental research for advancement of knowledge.

It was decided to set up centres of excellence to support interdisciplinary research in humanities and social sciences. It was also agreed that there was a need to empower researchers with flexible and transparent funding mechanism towards achieving ease of doing research.

The governing body also directed that the ANRF strategies should align with the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047 and implementation follow global best practices adopted by research and development agencies across the world, the statement said.

The meeting was attended by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union education minister as vice-president of the governing body; principal scientific advisor to the government of India as member secretary; member (science), NITI Aayog; and the Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and Department of Higher Education secretaries as ex-officio members. Addressing a press briefing after the meeting, Department of Science & Technology Secretary Prof Abhay Karandikar said a crucial issue hindering India's research potential was that less than one per cent of the nation's 40,000 higher education institutions were engaged in research. "Through PAIR (Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research), ANRF will link top-tier research institutions with those where research capability is limited, creating a collaborative mentorship environment," he said.

The goal is to create a hub-and-spoke framework that will enable these institutions to systematically enhance their research excellence, he said.

**Delhi court grants...**

conditions on him including that he shall not influence the witnesses or the probe. On July 5, the court had granted Rashid custody parole to take the oath as a member of the Lok Sabha. Rashid has been in jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror funding case. He is lodged in Tihar jail.

The court has reserved for tomorrow its order on his regular bail application. Rashid's name cropped up in the case during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who was arrested by the NIA for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir valley. The NIA had filed a charge sheet against several people, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, in the case. Malik was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

**Omar's sons join...**

media persons, Sadhotra used the opportunity to target the BJP, accusing the national party of pursuing divisive politics and spreading hatred in society.

"It is unfortunate that our country's home minister is misleading the public by saying that we are planning to change the name of Shankaracharya and Hari Parbat hills (in Srinagar). Where is it written in our manifesto? We have clearly stated that we want to set up a cable car between the



two hills to provide additional facilities to the pilgrims," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was in the Union Territory a couple of days ago for the release of the BJP's manifesto and campaign for the party.

The NC Additional General Secretary requested the BJP not to spread hatred using religion.

"We know you are out to mislead the people but the home minister has also been misled. It is a deliberate attempt to create mistrust and it is not a good thing," he said.

"The National Conference believes in peace and communal harmony," he said, urging the people to vote for the NC-Congress coalition candidates to oust the BJP which has brought only "miseries to the people over the last 10 years".

He said the BJP is saying the NC-Congress alliance will bring back terrorism by assuming power in J&K.

**DEO Kishtwar reviews election preparedness in Marwah, Warwan area**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KISHTWAR: District Election Officer (DEO), Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan visited the remote areas of Sub Division Marwah today to assess the logistics and security arrangements for the smooth, free, and transparent conduct of the upcoming Assembly Election.

The tour of DEO was aimed to oversee all the election related arrangements made so far by field agencies.

The officer reviewed lodging and boarding arrangements for polling staff in the sub-division. He also evaluated the welfare logistics for advance polling parties, including polling personnel,

Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), who will remain in the area for over a week due to the remote location and logistical challenges.

In terms of security and logistics, he directed the officers to address any gaps well in advance, emphasizing the need for flawless execution to ensure a free and fair election process.

Accompanied by SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom, ACD Kishtwar/Nodal Officer Logistics, the DEO inspected intermediate strong rooms and some polling stations in Marwah and Warwan. They reviewed the security measures and assessed AMFs such as water, power, sanitation,

and facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), women, and elderly voters at these stations.

In his address to the officers associated with the conduct of elections, the DEO said that emphasis needs to be put on SVEEP to enhance the polling percentage and make people aware about their rights of vote.

He appealed to the voters to achieve 100 percent polling target at each polling station by ensuring that the voters are facilitated by the election duty staff to cast hassle free votes.

Taking a serious note of the fake news on WhatsApp, he directed the SDM to take stringent action and strictly

enforce the MCC.

Later, the visiting officers attended the SVEEP Programme held at High Schools in Chanjer (Marwah) and Afti (Warwan). A SVEEP rally was also flagged off by DEO in presence of SSP at Afti. The DEO appealed to the voters to participate actively in the upcoming Assembly Election, emphasizing the importance of their involvement in the democratic process. He further said that a friendly environment as festivity should prevail in the areas and everyone should feel pride in the electoral participation.

**GHSS Hatli hosts SVEEP event to promote electoral participation**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: Government Kather Secondary School, Hatli organized an impactful awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, here on Tuesday.

The aim was to educate the public on the importance of voting and encourage greater electoral participation ahead of upcoming elections.

The programme was presided over by the Principal, Dev Raj in presence of AC Nodal Officer Mangal Singh (Principal of GHSS Girls Kathua), saw a strong turnout of over 400 participants, including students, teachers, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), ANMs, ASHA workers, patwaris, chowkidars, lambardars and other community members.

Mangal Singh emphasized the crucial role every citizen plays in strengthening democracy through active involvement in the electoral process.

**Election Observers brief candidates, political representatives about ECI guidelines**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: As mandated under the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), General Observers for AC-56 Gulabgarh (ST) Saroj Kumar Sethi and for AC-57 Reasi and AC-58 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Avi Prasad along with Police Observer Pradeep Kumar Yadav held a meeting on Tuesday with contesting candidates and representatives of different political parties to inform them about guidelines, do's, and don'ts of the election process.

District Election Officer (DEO) Vishesh Mahajan, welcomed all observers and representatives of political parties and contesting candidates. General Observer Avi Prasad informed about various aspects of elections like adherence to model code of

conduct (MCC), permissions, Postal ballots, intermediate strong rooms and importance of 12 identity proof documents for voting on the day of poll.

Police Observer Pradeep Kumar Yadav ensured that the observers shall be available 24/7 for any grievances by representatives. General Observer for 56-AC Gulabgarh Saroj Sethi emphasised on free, fair and peaceful elections and the role of political parties in ensuring that. Observers told the members of political parties to feel free to come up to them with any apprehension about any person and assured the same will be dealt with strictly. The representatives of contesting candidates used the opportunity to clarify their doubts and also discussed a few issues which according to them were of

great importance. The Representatives were briefed about C-Vigil app for reporting violations regarding MCC and expenditure and the use of Suvidha app designed for seeking timely permissions.

Observers asked election authorities to provide handbooks to all candidates, both hard and soft copies, and asked political party representatives and candidates to acknowledge receipt of notices communicated to them. Observers highlighted the critical role of political parties for ensuring good and enhanced voter engagement and turnout.

Representatives of various political parties: SSP Gaurav Sikarwar, ADCC Sukhdev Samyal, ADC Kulbushan Khajuria, RO-57 Anshumali Sharma, RO-58 Piyush and others were present.

**Election Observers update political parties about ECI regulations at Poonch**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: The General, Police, and Expenditure Observers for the Haveli, Surankote and Mendhar Assembly Constituencies convened a significant meeting today with representatives from various political parties at Dak Bungalow, Poonch. The focus was ensuring adherence to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and addressing critical matters ahead of the Assembly Elections 2024.

The General Election Observer for Haveli and Surankote, Solai Bharathi Dasan, Expenditure

Observer Bharat Ramchandra Andhale, along with Police Observer Rohan Kanay and General Election Observer for Mendhar, Siddhartha Das reiterated the importance of abiding by the MCC. The representatives of the political parties were given hard copies of the MCC and were asked to follow the guidelines of the Election Commission of India during canvassing. The Observers emphasized that these guidelines are crucial for ethical campaigning and ensuring the electoral process remains free and fair. During the meeting, logisti-

cal and security measures were thoroughly discussed. The District Election Officer Poonch, Vikas Kundal, assured the political representatives that all necessary measures are in place for the safe and efficient transport of polling parties. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units. He further highlighted that special security arrangements are in place to secure critical polling stations, ensuring a smooth electoral process.

The representatives of the

political parties assured the officials of their cooperation with the election authorities and pledged to follow the MCC guidelines. They also assured the observers of their commitment to ethically conducting their campaigns, contributing to a peaceful and transparent election process.

The meeting was also attended by ADC Poonch Tahir Mustafa Malik, SDM Mendhar, SDM Surankote, Deputy DEO, Returning officers for the three assembly constituencies and other concerned.

**DEO Doda reviews arrangements for upcoming J&K Assembly Elections 2024**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: District Election Officer (DEO) Doda, Harvinder Singh on Tuesday chaired a meeting with Zonal and Sectoral Magistrates to review the preparations for the upcoming Jammu and

Assembly Elections 2024. The meeting focused on ensuring smooth and efficient management of election-related tasks in District Doda.

The session was attended virtually by Returning Officer (RO) for AC-51 Bhaderwah, Sunil Kumar, along with key officials including Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Doda, Manesh Kumar Manhas, and Dr. Akhter Hussain Akhoun, District Nodal Officer for Trainings and Human Resources. The discussion covered the allocation of manpower, the logistical arrangements required for polling, and the importance of a coordinated effort between different departments.

The DEO stressed the need for meticulous planning and execution, partic-

ularly in sensitive areas. He directed the Zonal and Sectoral Magistrates to ensure that all polling stations are equipped with necessary facilities, including accessibility for persons with disabilities. He also emphasized the importance of security arrangements and urged the officials to work closely with law enforcement agencies to maintain order during the election process.

Additionally, the DEO highlighted the significance of voter awareness campaigns and SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiatives to maximize voter turnout. He instructed the nodal officers to ensure that training programs for polling staff are conducted efficiently and all officials are well-versed in handling Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and other election-related equipment.

**Ramban's cyber cell solves financial fraud of Rs 20K**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAMBAN: Cyber Cell of DPO Ramban solved a Financial Fraud cases. Continuing its efforts to extend services to the general public and address their grievances, Cyber Cell DPO Ramban recovered and successfully refunded an amount of Rs 20,231 in a complaint. Brief fact of the cases are that Cyber Cell DPO Ramban received one complaint regarding the online financial fraud. After receiving the Complaint, Cyber Cell DPO Ramban immediately swung into the action and started the enquiry into the matter and made hectic efforts which ultimately recovered the defrauded amount of Rs 20,231 which was swindled by online scams.

**Crackdown on illegal mining, 3 vehicles seized**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources. In an operation which was carried out at different locations in South Zone of District Jammu, PP Phallain Mandal under PSI Harish Chander detained 02 vehicles loaded with sand seized under illegal mining. On other hand, PP Nehru Market under PSI Ajesh Jamwal seized 01 truck/dumper. In all, 02 vehicles have been seized in jurisdiction of PS Satwari and 01 vehicle has been seized in jurisdiction of PS Gandhinagar of South Zone by JKP. After detaining of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

**Wing Commander booked for rape after junior's complaint**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: An FIR has been registered against a Wing Commander following complaints of rape by a woman flying officer, officials said here on Tuesday.

Both the IAF officers are currently stationed in Srinagar. After the complaint, the FIR under "relevant sections of the law" was filed at Budgam police station in central Kashmir on Saturday, a senior police officer said.

The IAF said it is cooperating with the police. "We are aware of the case. The Air Force Station in Srinagar was approached by the local Budgam police station on the subject. We are fully cooperating towards this case," a senior IAF official said.