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Candidature of 449...**

ACs in Kupwara district, nomination papers of 11 candidates were found valid in 1-Karnah AC; 13 in 2-Trehgam AC; 9 in 3-Kupwara AC; 13 in 4-Lolab AC; 8 in 5-Handwara AC; while nomination papers of 21 candidates have been accepted in 6-Langate AC.

In Baramulla district, nomination papers of 22 candidates were found valid in 7-Sopore AC; 12 in 8-Raffabad AC; 7 in 9-Uri AC; 25 in 10-Baramulla AC; 14 in 11-Gulmarg AC; 13 in 12-Wagoora- Kreeri AC; while nomination papers of 14 candidates have been accepted in 13-Pattan AC.

In Bandipora district, nomination papers of 20 candidates were found valid in 14-Sonawari AC; 21 in 15-Bandipora AC; while nomination papers of 5 candidates have been accepted in 16-Gurez (ST) AC.

As per the Election notification, the candidates can withdraw their nominations in the office of the respective Returning Officers, before the scheduled withdrawal date.

The polling day for these 40 Assembly constituencies in Phase-III is scheduled for October 1, 2024, and the voting will be conducted from 07:00 AM to 06:00 PM.

Kishtwar encounter: JCO...

later succumbed to the injuries, the officials said.

The Army also confirmed the martyrdom of the two soldiers.

"GOC (General Officer Commanding) White Knight Corps and all ranks salute the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts; offer deepest condolences to the families," the Army said.

Earlier, the Army had said contact was established and the search party exchanged a heavy volume of fire with the terrorists around 3:30 pm.

"In the ensuing firefight four army personnel have been injured. The operation is in progress," the Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The officials said the injured soldiers were airlifted to an Army hospital after preliminary treatment at a local hospital.

The encounter comes two days after the Army, in a successful operation, neutralised two Pakistani terrorists affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit in the higher reaches of Basantgarh in Udhampur district.

Time for J&K...

allowed the J&K to develop and prosper. Even the legacies of Gandhi and Nehru have contributed to this ongoing turmoil. The mistakes of the past should not be repeated. We are determined to correct these historical errors and bring Jammu and Kashmir into a new era of peace and prosperity," said Chugh.

Chugh said it is the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that have brought about a big transformation in J&K. The youth are seeing a new hope while there has been phenomenal growth in business and trade. Under his vision, J&K has achieved peace and development, he added.

He highlighted various initiatives like medical insurance worth Rs. 7 lakh for every citizen, pensions for sisters and elder daughters-in-law, and development projects.

Regarding Engineer Rashid's release from jail, Chugh said that people who are accused of terror funding will not be tolerated, and the judiciary's bail is not a release but a temporary reprieve.

Chugh emphasized that PM Modi has a clear vision of "everyone's support, everyone's development, everyone's faith," and his initiatives benefit all citizens regardless of religion, caste, or creed.

Under Modi, the BJP has focussed on showcasing Jammu and Kashmir as a transforming region. Economic development, investment in infrastructure, and also a crackdown on terrorism have become central to the party's messaging, he added.

People of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better than politics of division. The BJP will usher in peace and development in each and every part of this region. We will not allow divisive leaders like Engineer Rashid to come in the way of progress," Chugh said while appealing to the voters to vote for BJP in the coming elections.

We made some...

rest of the relationship is insulated from it.

The external affairs minister said both sides have been engaged in negotiations for the last four years to find a solution to the outstanding issues.

"Now those negotiations are going on. We made some progress. I would say roughly you can say about 75 per cent of the disengagement problems are sorted out," he said at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

"We still have some things to do," Jaishankar, who is on a two-day visit to Switzerland, said.

But there is a bigger issue that both of us have brought forces close up and in that sense there is a militarisation of the border, he said.

"How does one deal with it? I think we have to deal with it. In the meanwhile, after the clash, it has affected the entirety of the relationship because you cannot have violence at the border and then say the rest of the relationship is insulated from it," he said.

The external affairs minister indicated that the relationship can improve if there is a resolution to the row.

"We hope that if there is a solution to the disengagement and there is a return to peace and tranquility, then we can look at other possibilities," he said.

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points following a series of talks.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

Describing India-China relations as "complex", Jaishankar said the ties were kind of normalised in the late 1980s and the basis for it was that there would be peace at the border.

"The basis obviously for a good relationship, I would say even for a normal relationship, was that there would be peace and tranquility in the border. After things started to take a better turn in 1988, we had a series of agreements which stabilised the border," he said.

"What happened in 2020 was in violation of multiple agreements for some reasons which is still entirely not clear to us; we can speculate on it."

"The Chinese actually moved a very large number of troops to the Line of Actual Control at the border and naturally in response we moved our troops up. It was very difficult for us because we were in the middle of a Covid lockdown at that time," he said.

Jaishankar described the development as very dangerous.

"Now we could see straight-away that this was a very dangerous development because the presence of a large number of troops in these extreme heights and extreme cold in near proximity could lead to a mishap. And that's exactly what happened in June 2022," he said, referring to Galwan Valley clashes.

The external affairs minister said the issue for India was that why China disturbed the peace and tranquility and why they moved those troops and how to deal with this very close up situation. "We have now been negotiating close to four years and the first step of that is what we called disengagement which is their troops go back to their normal operating bases and our troops go back to their normal operating bases and where required we have an arrangement about patrolling because both of us patrol regularly in that border as I said it is not a legally delineated border."

Encounter breaks out in Baramulla

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, police said.

The gunfight started in the Pattan area of the north Kashmir district.

"Encounter has started at Chak Tapper Kreeri Pattan area of #Baramulla," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X.

Police and security forces are on the job and further details shall follow, the police said.

SC seeks NBE's response on plea for transparency in NEET-PG selection process

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice to the National Board of Education on a plea seeking disclosure of answer keys and question papers of NEET-PG 2024, held on August 11, for ensuring transparency in the selection process.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra took note of a plea filed by MBBS doctor Ishika Jain and others, seeking disclosure of answer keys and other measures to ensure increased transparency.

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Post-Graduation (NEET-PG) is conducted for admissions in courses after MBBS and BDS.

The results, which were announced by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) on August 23, have led to concerns among students over unexpectedly low rankings.

After comparing the scores with unofficial answer keys, many students raised suspicion about discrepancies in the ranking process and urged the NBE to release official answer keys and set up a grievance portal to address the issues.

Senior advocate Vibha Makhija, appearing for Jain and others, said the NBE had not released either the question papers or the answer keys and, without knowing the correct answers, the candidates would not be able to assess their performances in a transparent way.

The bench, which initially asked her to approach Delhi High Court, later issued the notice to the NBE on the plea and fixed it for hearing on September 20. The plea alleged lack of transparency and arbitrary last-minute changes in NEET-PG 2024.

**National Advanced Rhythmic Gymnastics Training Camp at Srinagar
LG interacts with Gymnasts, Coaches**



LG Manoj Sinha along with Gymnasts and Coaches who attended the National Advanced Rhythmic Gymnastics Training Camp at Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday interacted with women Gymnasts from States and UTs, who attended the National Advanced Rhythmic Gymnastics Training Camp at Srinagar. The athletes were accompanied by Indian and foreign coaches and other team officials.

The 21-day long Training Camp, organized by J&K Sports Council in collaboration with Gymnastics Federation of India and Gymnastics Association of J&K, was conducted under the expert guidance of foreign coach from Azerbaijan. Ms. Dilbar Ibrahimova and Arjuna Awardee Ms. Krupali Singh.

Interacting with the Gymnasts and Coaches at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor highlighted the transformation in sports sector of the UT of J&K.

Modern sports infrastructure, world-class training centres, coaching, mentoring and other necessary facilities have helped J&K make a mark on the national and global sporting stage. The increased participation of youth, especially the girls in sports and their achievement is heartening, he said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the J&K Sports Council and other stakeholders for their efforts to nurture the young talent of Jammu Kashmir. He also extended his felicitations and best wishes to the young gymnasts and coaches for their future games.

On the occasion, Gymnastics Coach from Azerbaijan and Gymnasts also shared the experience of their visit to Jammu Kashmir.

Sudhir Mital, President, Gymnastics Federation of India; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports Department; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Er. Kiran Wattal, President, Gymnastics Association of J&K and office-bearers of Sports Council and Gymnastics Association were present.

Will Er Rashid back BJP if need arises after J&K polls: Omar

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday asked Baramulla's Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid to clarify whether his party would support the BJP if the saffron party needs it after the Jammu and Kashmir elections.

The Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) supremo, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, was behind bars in Delhi's Tihar Jail and was released on interim bail on Wednesday to campaign for the assembly elections.

"Yesterday, at a seminar, when Rashid was asked whether he would support the BJP after the election, he remained silent. Why does he not say categorically that he will not support the BJP in any manner after the elections," Abdullah told reporters in Devsar area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district after an election rally.

"Engineer Rashid probably stated yesterday that if I am ready to go back to Delhi with him, he will leave the field in our favour. Today, I say that the day he has to go back to Tihar Jail, I will go with him to drop him there.

He should leave the field and sit at home," the NC vice president added.

He said his party has talked about every issue related to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their manifesto.

"We (NC) have talked about Article 370. We have talked about the Kashmir issue. We have always talked about improving relations between India and Pakistan. And we have also talked about the day-to-day issues of the people here. What issue have we left?" Abdullah asked.

Abdullah, who was defeated by Rashid in the Lok Sabha polls, said Jammu and Kashmir has faced a lot of "losses because of the BJP".

"Whether it is Jammu or Kashmir, people everywhere are disappointed. To get rid from this disappointment and suffering, the BJP and those who are ready to help the BJP after October 8, must be defeated in this election.

This is the reason we have formed a pre-poll alliance to prove that we are the ones who are not ready to join hands with the BJP to form the government," he said.

Sustainable development of tourist destinations our priority: CS

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday held a wrap-up meeting with the World Bank team to discuss the way forward for development of new Tourist destinations in J&K and for promotion of Handicrafts sector here.

The World Bank Team while concluding their 4-day visit put forth various suggestions regarding the interventions required for the new projects. World Bank Team gave an account of their observations after having visited several Tourist places and Handicrafts units during their brief stay in Kashmir.

It was agreed that the World Bank shall primarily provide its support as a Knowledge Partner for development of new Tourist Destinations and promotion of Handicrafts Sector.

The need for project funding was also discussed and the demand for extension in the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) by one more year was also put forth to the visiting World Bank Team.



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Friday.

Chief Secretary in his remarks stated that the Government's focus would be to ensure sustainable development of all Tourist Destinations so as to boost the Tourism sector's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

He said that while Tourism has potential to contribute immensely to the J&K economy, the Government shall also devise a strategy to conserve the ecology of tourist places by ensuring planned development in sync with the natural surroundings. He said that Tourism Development Authorities would need to be strengthened so that these drive development of Tourist locations.

Chief Secretary thanked the World Bank Team for their visit to provide technical advice for development of new Tourist destinations and promotion of handicrafts for which World Bank would play significant role as a Knowledge Partner.

The World Bank team while summing up the visit gave details of their visit reiterating its strong commitment to sustainability and

to support the J&K Government in their new projects aimed at better management of Tourist locations.

The team emphasized to have overall strategic vision for development of tourism and to develop 'Tourism Destination Spatial Plans for organized development. Among other issues discussed, the team also stressed on working on sustainable indicators with regard to putting in place facilities for better upkeep of tourist resorts.

The need for involvement of private sector for making investment in setting up tourism facilities, Government's facilitation of businesses by speeding up paperwork & clearances and the need to develop clean-green brand were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the World Bank, Ministry of Tourism Government of India; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Director Tourism, Kashmir/Jammu; MD, JKTDC; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir and other senior officers.

Govt tightens stock limits on wheat to check hoarding, price hike

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Centre on Friday tightened wheat stock holding limits for traders, wholesalers, big chain retailers, and processors in order to check price rise and hoarding.

The revised stock limits on wheat come barely two months after they were imposed on June 24. The restrictions will remain in force until March 31, 2025 across all states and Union Territories.

Under the revised rules, traders and wholesalers are allowed to stock up to 2,000 tonnes now, as against 3,000 tonne earlier, an official statement said.

Big chain retailers can store wheat up to "10 MT (metric tonnes) in each outlet and (10x total number of outlets) at all their depot." Earlier, they were no restriction on stocking wheat based on the number of outlets.

For processors, the limit has been reduced to 60 per cent from earlier limit of 70 per cent of their monthly installed capacity (MIC) multiplied by the remaining months of the 2024-25 fiscal.

The stock limits have been kept unchanged for individual retailers who continue to stock up to 10 tonnes of wheat.

The government has mandated all entities to declare their stock position and regularly update it on the Department of Food and Public Distribution's portal (<https://evegoils.nic.in/wsp/login>).

Those holding stocks exceeding the prescribed limits have been given a 15-day window to comply with

the new norms.

Both Centre and state officials will closely monitor the enforcement of these stock limits to ensure that "no artificial scarcity of wheat" is created in the country, the statement said.

Official data reveals that wheat and wheat flour prices have declined much even after imposition of the stock limits in June.

As of September 13, the average retail price of wheat stood at Rs 31.06 per kg, up from Rs 30.99 per kg on June 20, this year. Wheat flour prices remained firm at Rs 35.97 per kg.

The government maintains that it has sufficient wheat stocks to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes.

The stock limit intervention is seen as a preemptive measure to check unscrupulous speculation and ensure that wheat prices remain stable in the coming months.

PIB Jammu joins nationwide Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, joined the nationwide 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign on Friday.

Neha Jalali (IIS), Director, PIB, Jammu planted a sapling on the office premises in Radio Colony here. Media and Communication Officer, Zakir Nazeer and other officials of the media unit also participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Neha Jalali hailed the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign as a noble initiative for environment protection, and as a mark of respect to Mother Earth.

She called for planting more saplings in and around homes and offices to increase green cover in the city and complement the efforts towards conserving the environment and tackling adverse impact of climate change. She said more



Neha Jalali (IIS), Director, PIB, Jammu along with others during plantation drive.

and more people should be encouraged to join the campaign. The Director also stressed the need for taking care of the saplings planted by regularly watering them and checking their well-being.

Over 52 crore saplings have been planted under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign across India so far. Prime Minister,

Govt decides to rename Port Blair as Sri Vijaya Puram: Amit Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The government has decided to rename Port Blair as Sri Vijaya Puram, Union Home minister Amit Shah announced on Friday. Port Blair is the capital city of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Shah also said that the decision has been taken to free the nation from the colonial imprints as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an



"unparalleled place" in the country's freedom struggle and history.

@narendramodi Ji, to free the nation from the colonial imprints, today we have decided to rename Port Blair as "Sri Vijaya Puram", Shah wrote on X.

The home minister said while the earlier name had a colonial legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in India's freedom struggle and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' unique role in it. He said the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an "unparalleled

place" in the freedom struggle and history, and the island territory that once served as the naval base of the Chola Empire is now poised to be the critical base for India's strategic and development aspirations.

"It is also the place that hosted the first unfurling of our Tiranga by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Ji and also the cellular jail in which Veer Savarkar Ji and other freedom fighters struggled for an independent nation," he said.