

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Panchayat Polls: 7,959 ...

polling in Jammu division and 30.3 per cent in Kashmir division. In Phase-VI overall poll percentage of 76.9 per cent was recorded including 17.3 per cent in Kashmir division and 84.6 per cent in Jammu division. In Phase-V poll percentage of 71.1 per cent was witnessed across the State with 85.2 per cent polling in Jammu division and 33.7 per cent in Kashmir division. In Phase-IV JK witnessed 71.3 per cent voting with 82.4 per cent electors exercising their franchise in Jammu division and 32.3 per cent in Kashmir division. In Phase-III, the State witnessed a poll percentage of 75.2 per cent including 55.7 per cent in Kashmir division and 83.0 per cent in Jammu division. In Phase-II overall 71.1 per cent polling was witnessed across the State with 80.4 per cent polling in Jammu division and 52.2 per cent in Kashmir division and in Phase-I 74.1 per cent polling was recorded including 64.5 per cent in Kashmir division and 79.4 per cent in Jammu division.

Farooq welcomes Pak's...

"I look forward to elections for the state assembly at an earliest. Only a popular government can mitigate the mounting woes of people. And it is the duty of people to elect honest people to the legislature," he said.

Expressing his dismay over the attack on the secular visage of India, the NC president said "many powers that are inimical to the secular character of India are making bigoted attempts to polarize people on religious lines to garner support. This, I believe, is dangerous for a country like India which belongs to all."

He said people want answers for all those "fanciful promises" that were made by the BJP.

"People cannot forget the ordeal that they had to undergo due to demonetization. Small businessmen and small enterprise holders too are at the receiving end due to the promulgation of GST," he said.

Applauding the professionalism and efforts of doctors of SKIMS institute, Abdullah said the institute should take lead in research.

"It is the shared effort of people who run this institution that will make it great. The other day I read that the research being done in India is not of good quality. SKIMS should take a lead in research and come up with cure for many diseases that are a source of agony for people. The institute should find cure for diseases like diabetes and cancer. It will earn laurels for the institute," he said.

Abdullah, who is Lok Sabha member from Srinagar, allocated Rs one crore for construction of auditorium at SKIMS from his constituency development fund.

Guv unwell, could...

to go to New Delhi after attending function at SKIMS in Srinagar for medical consultations but had to prepone his departure because of medical reasons," the spokesman added.

Two ashrams of...

in Bhagwati Nagar said, "Ever since Virender Dev Dikshit went missing the local ashram in Bhagwati Nagar was not seized by the police."

They said, "We lodged several complaints before the police to check the mysterious activities going on inside the building, rented by the caretakers of the ashram in the narrow lane opposite to Assa Ram Babu Ashram in Bhagwati Nagar area."

Referring to the modified caged structure, the locals said, "If the spiritual guru claims he is running some Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya why the building has been converted in to a caged structure"

"Like other religious places the building could have been thrown open to all the disciples. Why grills have been fixed inside the rented building. People in the area are curious to know the nature of activities going on without any check in the area", residents of Bhagwati Nagar asked.

Owner of the building Mukesh Gupta claimed that he requested the caretakers to vacate the building on numerous occasions but instead of vacating the building they attacked him and threatened him with dire consequences.

In Dyalachak also the same team raided the ashram of godman Virender Dev Dikshit. At least half a dozen disciples including members of a family of Chundi Mahajan and Meena Devi were present there. The building in the area was owned by Veero Devi, official sources said.

Mukesh Gupta, owner of the Bhagwati Nagar building said, "Many girls from Dyalachak are missing. The locals briefed the committee about suspicious activities in these ashrams and the committee will submit the report to the Court."

India's most powerful ...

the Ariane-5 vehicle injected the GSAT-11 into orbit in a flawless flight of about 33 minutes.

"ISRO's heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite GSAT-11 was successfully launched from the spaceport in French Guiana during the early hours today," the Bengaluru-headquartered Indian space agency said.

The ISRO hired Ariane-5 rocket as its own geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle GSLV MK III can only haul satellites that weighs upto 4 tonnes.

GSAT-11 has been described as India's "richest space asset" by the ISRO.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the ISRO on the successful launch and called it a "major milestone" for the country's space programme, which would transform the lives of crores of Indians by connecting remote areas.

"Congrats to @isro for the successful launch of GSAT-11, which is the heaviest, largest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite of India," he tweeted.

"India is proud of our scientists, who keep innovating and setting high standards of scale, achievements and success. Their remarkable work inspires every Indian."

Burglars take away...

this a case was registered and investigation was started, a police spokesman said.

The two accused, identified as Ayush Sharma of Janipur and Rishav Gupta of Rehari, were then arrested, he said.

The duo were further being questioned, police said, adding possibility of their involvement in other cases of burglary could not be ruled out.

VVIP chopper case...

his extradition by the UAE in connection with the case.

He was produced before Special CBI Judge Arvind Kumar which allowed discussions between him and his advocate for five minutes.

Michel's advocate asked the Court to send him to judicial custody but the CBI sought his 14-days custodial interrogation to confront him with evidence and unearth the money trail in the scam.

However, the Judge allowed CBI to interrogate Michel for five days in its custody.

The Court asked the CBI to provide all relevant documents including the charge sheet to Michel.

A bail plea was also moved on his behalf. The Court did not give any specific date for hearing the bail plea.

Security was tightened at the Patiala House Court complex hours before the production of Michel.

Around 15-20 personnel of the CRPF and 30 Delhi Police officials had been deputed in the court complex as well as outside several of its gates, said one of the police officials. The police force, included women officials.

Michel, 54, landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on a Gulfstream jet at 10.35 PM on Tuesday night after which he was arrested by the CBI in connection with the case.

Michel is one of the three middlemen being probed in the case, besides Guido Haschke and Carlo Gerosa, by the ED and the CBI. Both the agencies have notified an Interpol Red Corner Notice (RCN) against him after the Court issued a non-bailable warrant against him.

Michel had denied the charges.

The CBI has alleged there was an estimated loss of Euro 398.21 million (approximately Rs 2,666 crore) to the exchequer in the deal that was signed on February 8, 2010 for the supply of VVIP choppers worth Euro 556.262 million.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), in its charge sheet filed against Michel in June 2016, had alleged that he received EUR 30 million (about Rs 225 crore) from AgustaWestland.

The money was nothing but "kickbacks" paid by the firm to execute the 12 helicopter deal in favour of the firm in the "guise of" genuine transactions for performing multiple work contracts in the country, according to the charge sheet.

The ED investigation found that remittances made by Michel through his Dubai-based firm Global Services to a media firm he floated in Delhi, along with two Indians, were made from the funds which he got from AgustaWestland through "criminal activity" and corruption in the chopper deal, which led to the subsequent generation of proceeds of crime.

On January 1, 2014, India scrapped the contract with Italy-based Finmeccanica's British subsidiary AgustaWestland for supplying 12 AW-101 VVIP choppers to the IAF over alleged breach of contractual obligations and charges of paying kickbacks to the tune of Rs 423 crore by it for securing the deal.

The CBI on September 1, 2017, had filed a charge sheet in the case in which Michel was named as one of the accused.

Former IAF Chief S.P Tyagi was also chargesheeted by the CBI in a Delhi Court along with nine others in connection with a bribery case in the VVIP chopper deal.

Tyagi (73) is the first Chief of the Indian Air Force to be chargesheeted in a corruption or a criminal case by the CBI and he has denied all charges against him.

Besides him, the agency has also chargesheeted retired Air Marshal J.S Gujral along with eight others, including five foreign nationals, in the charge sheet filed before the Special CBI Judge.

Anglo-Italian company, AgustaWestland, is also one of the accused.

Others named in the charge sheet are -- Tyagi's cousin Sanjeev alias Julie, Advocate Gautam Khaitan, alleged European middlemen Carlo Gerosa, Christian Michel, Guido Haschke, former AgustaWestland CEO Bruno Spagnolini and former Finmeccanica Chairman Giuseppe Orsi.

Tight security in Ayodhya ...

E Syah (black day). Though it has almost become customary for the two sides to come out with such announcements, the events in the run up to the anniversary, especially the 'Dharam Sabha' (religious conclave) organised by the VHP on November 25 on the Ram temple issue, have prompted authorities to further shore up security in the city.

Over 2,500 police personnel, besides Rapid Action Force and paramilitary CRPF, have been deployed as part of multi-layered security in Ayodhya including in and around the disputed site and several parts of Hanumangarhi area of the city, officials said.

"We have heavy security deployment in the twin towns of Faizabad-Ayodhya. The civil police along with CRPF and RAF have been deployed on roads and sensitive localities," Superintendent of Police, Faizabad (city) Anil Singh said.

"Checking of vehicles, hotels and dharmshala (rest houses) in Ayodhya is being conducted. We have made all necessary security arrangements and have allowed only programme which are held by both the communities every year," he said.

While Paramhans Das was arrested on Tuesday, Hindu leader Kamlesh Tiwari, who claimed to be a leader of Hindu Maha Sabha, was held on Monday. Tiwari had announced that he will perform Karsewa for the construction of Ram Janambhoomi on December 6.

On same day Rangam Krishna Maharaj and Rajesh Mani Tripathi of - Naraini Sena was taken into custody over a planned protest.

Despite the visible security presence, it was business as usual in the temple town as pilgrims moved in and around the Hanumangarhi area and most of the eateries and shops were open.

"Ayodhya was peaceful during the recently held Dharam Sabha and is absolutely peaceful now," the Mayor of Ayodhya, Rishikesh Upadhyay, said.

"Adequate security personnel have been deployed to ensure that no untoward incident takes place. Around 20-25 companies of police and Provisional Armed Constabulary (PAC) are permanently stationed at (Ram Janambhoomi/Babri Mosque) the site and its vicinity," he said.

The VHP spokesperson in Ayodhya, Sharad Sharma, said Hindu organisations are likely "to organise a number of religious programmes so that a grand temple of Lord Ram is built".

"Special prayers for Goddess Saraswati (the goddess of learning) are to be held so that the people, especially politicians do not hinder the construction of a Ram temple, besides hawans seeking to get rid of all obstructions.

"Tributes will also be paid to the innocent karsewaks who faced bullets and lost their lives," he said.

Mahant Ramdas of Nirmohi Akhara said "the day would be celebrated like Diwali and hawans would be held at Karsewakpuram".

Meanwhile, state president of Indian Union Muslim League said, We will observe this day as Black Day. Even the Supreme Court has termed the demolition of Babri Masjid as a matter of national shame".

The Babri Masjid Action Committee has called on the people to observe the day peacefully and hold special prayers for early resolution of the dispute.

Afaq Ahmad Khan, Chairman of BMAC, said, We are waiting for the last 26 years for justice". He expressed the hope that the mosque will be rebuilt at the site.

The BMAC said it will send memoranda to the Prime Minister and the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister requesting them to ensure status quo at Ayodhya demolition site as per Supreme Court orders.

"The anniversary should be observed peacefully like in previous years," BMAC convener Zafaryab Jilani said.

"Those trying to vitiate atmosphere and giving inflammatory speeches should be strictly dealt with. Security of all the residents of Ayodhya, especially Muslims, should be ensured and necessary action should be taken in this regard," he said, adding prayers should also be held for peace and harmony in the country.

The Babri mosque was demolished on December 6, 1992 by 'karsevaks' who had converged as part of a movement by the BJP and Hindu outfits for Ram temple at the disputed site.

The Ramjanambhoomi/Babri masjid title suit is pending in the apex court, which will decide the schedule of hearing in January. Fourteen appeals have been filed in the apex court against a high court judgement, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77 acre land be partitioned equally among three parties -- the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

After the Supreme Court refused an early hearing, Hindu outfits have demanded that the government bring in an ordinance for construction of Ram temple.

Is hate-preacher...

the local youth activist said, hoping the army, the police and the district administration will revisit the entire episode and take appropriate action against the cleric as per law.

The Kashmir militancy is testimony to the harsh truth how the Indian Army has been demonized by the so-called 'peaceniks', who are working in different guises and at times pretending to be hyper-nationalists. Such elements are smart enough to know how to keep both the sides-the defenders of the nation and the breakers of the country-in the good humour, the sources said, adding that mere apology does not condone the Molvi of the crime he committed that had potential to put Rajouri, and eventually, the entire State to fire. "The army must guard against alibis over the incident and probe the antecedents of the Molvi", the sources added.

In the instant case, which is civil in nature and warrants cognizance by the police and the civil administration, the intervention of the army is worrying the civil society members, which believe the law to have taken its course against the Molvi in order to offset the apprehensions in the minority community. "We would have appreciated the army to have kept itself off in instant case", the local activist said while supporting the demand for exemplary punishment to the guilty after proper investigations. "The involvement of the army in the issue has raised many suspicions", he added.

The local minority community members are peeved over the cancellation of the meeting slated for this evening in the wake of discussions held at the meeting at ALG grounds earlier during the day.

Work hard, compete...

had peace and people in Srinagar even used to go for strolling in parks at night or for a movie, but it's not there anymore," he said.

In his address, Gen Rawat reiterated that "infiltrators come from Pakistan to our side and create trouble".

"So, if you also want progress and development in the Valley, take this message from here, and tell the people there that guns are not good," he said.

Various terrorist outfits have been trying to radicalise the youths in Kashmir valley by using different means including online propaganda.

During the interaction, Gen Rawat asked the students as to what they wanted to become in life. Some replied saying they aspired to become civil servants or police officers or doctors, while only a single student said she wanted to be a teacher.

The Army had earlier this year signed an MoU with a state-run firm and the National Integrity Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) for medical aspirants, under which selected students will be provided with free residential coaching for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

The students, ranging from class 7-11 arrived here on Monday and have visited the Red Fort, Rajghat and Connaught Place market in Delhi, and will see the Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah and take a Metro ride before heading to Chandigarh, an official accompanying them said.

Vijay Mallya offers ...

in London on December 10, but the businessman stressed that the extradition issue was a "separate" matter which will take its "own legal course".

"The most important point is public money and I am offering to pay 100 per cent back. I humbly request the banks and government to take it. If pay-back refused, why," he questioned in one of his posts on Twitter.

In reference to some Indian media reports claiming that his offer is linked to an expected ruling in the extradition case on December 10, he added: "Usual nonsense! I have made settlement offers since 2016."

After weeks of silence, Mallya shot off a series of tweets since the early hours of Wednesday to defend the loans he had acquired from various banks as a means of keeping his now-defunct Kingfisher Airline afloat.

"Airlines struggling financially partly because of high ATF prices. Kingfisher was a fab airline that faced the highest ever crude prices of USD 140/barrel. Losses mounted and that's where banks money went. I have offered to repay 100 per cent of the principal amount to them. Please take it," reads one of his posts. Making a reference to his liquor group United Breweries, Mallya said that "India's largest alcoholic beverage group" had contributed "thousands of crores" to the state exchequer over the years. "Kingfisher Airlines also contributed handsomely to the states. Sad loss of the finest Airline but still I offer to pay Banks so no loss. Please take it," he said.

Non-gazetted police pensioners hold protest



Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners' staging protest at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners' Welfare Forum on Wednesday held a protest here to press the government to fulfill their long pending demand regarding pay anomaly.

A large number of retired non-gazetted police personnel under the leadership Ajit Singh assembled at Exhibition Ground near Press Club and raised slogans against the government for ignoring their demand regarding pay anomalies.

Addressing the protesters, Ajit Singh said that government is giving effect of its Order No 229-F of 2014 dated October 7, 2014 regarding pay anomaly, from the date of order though the effect should be given from the year 1996 when Fifth Pay Commission was implemented throughout the State leaving only Police Department.

He criticised the government and the Police Department for ignoring the just and genuine

demand of the police pensioners, stating that since the forum launched their struggle to get their rights, government is constituting committee after committee but doing nothing to redress the issue.

Singh said that first pay anomaly committee was formed in the year 2009, another was constituted on September 2011 and the third one was formed on April 2016. He said that the forum wants that like previous two committees, the third one should not be time killing.

"As such we want to know the time frame because the issue is lingering on for the last 20 years", he added. He demanded time bound pay grade should be given in Armed and IRP like police and election special pay like others. He appealed to the Governor for early removal of long pending discrimination in the pay anomaly.

CTF urges Guv to prevent harassment of trade, business community

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF) Jammu and Vice President Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), Neeraj Anand, on Wednesday urged Governor Satya Pal Malik to prevent harassment of trade and business community in the State.

"Business today is in a transformation stage where practices and platforms have changed drastically and the effect of demonetisation, GST, FDI in retail is well felt, making survival of traditional trade a challenging task," said Neeraj while urging the department concerned to be pragmatic in its approach while dealing with genuine dealers.

Talking to reporters, Neeraj dwelled upon how technical issues are being used by certain officials to harass poor illiterate dry fruit growers from Kashmir Valley who send their produce on-sale-basis to Jammu Fruit Mandi.

If an e-way bill is to be generated why not it be enforced during 300 kilometer stretch? Why to harass the dealer/grower

NMC for continuing Governor's rule

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) urged upon the Prime Minister for continuing Governor's rule in J&K till the problems of the people of working and salaried classes are addressed.

Addressing NMC workers meet here on Wednesday, President NMC, Subash Shastri said "Previous regime should learn lesson from Governor's administration which has given multifarious boast to the development activities in the State as all the important projects which were not given priority, have been started on mass scale which is an appreciable initiative by the Governor Satya Pal Malik.

Expressing concern over the undue delay in accepting and implementing the recommendation of Ashok Lavasa Committee set up of by the Central Government in reviewing the structure of pay anomalies pertaining to lower staff, Shastri appealed to the Prime Minister to settle the issue on priority basis so that benefit of recommendations of aforesaid committee reach the aggrieved clan of employees who are the main sufferers.

Among others who were also present included Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S Jamwal, Ram Singh, Surinder Kumar, Bhupinder Singh, Ramesh Sharma, Jai Pal Sharma, Subash Sharma, Tarsem, Suraj Parkash, Sukhdev Singh, Tarseem Sharma, Tilak Raj and Girdhari Lal.



President CTF, Neeraj Anand addressing media persons.

when the vehicle reaches Jammu, said Neeraj while arguing for opening more facilitation centers to take care of dry fruit growers/dealers.

Sharing outcome of the meeting of various trade heads held yesterday at CTF office, Neeraj Anand condemned the use of the terminology "raid".

He also urged the department to increase checking in "grey markets" to rein in unscrupulous dealers who adopt questionable ways to import goods from neighbouring states by railways/couriers or source goods from big modern trade chains like Walmart Best Price and on cash in different names thus depriving the State of legitimate revenue earnings.

Neeraj said CTF always represents tax compliant dealers and maintained that continuation of toll tax on goods has given dealers from other states an edge over the genuine registered dealer of the State in the bargain the State is also losing on revenue.

"We have given various representations to all concerned and would soon be seeking a meeting with Governor to discuss the alarming situation of trade in the State," he asserted.

In this era of economic driven world order, our State cannot be left out from miming revenues and improving the condition of its denizens by following transparent policies. "We also welcome the decision of the Governor in bringing J&K Bank under the purview of RTI." He said.

School property damaged

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gharota Police has lodged a case against some unknown people for damaging the school property.

As per the details, Sangeeta Bala, staffer of school lodged a complaint with Gharota Police stating therein that some unknown person have ransacked school property. During the investigation, police found that school had been damaged during a clash between two groups during counting process.

Woman dies of tear smoke, alleges family; Police refute

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A woman died due to cardiopulmonary arrest after the security forces fired tear smoke shells in Hajin area of north Kashmir's Bandipora District on Wednesday evening, claimed her family.

However, the police refuted, saying there was no law and order situation in the area.

The family members of Hajira Begum (60), wife of Nazir Ahmad Dar claimed that she died due to suffocation caused by teargas shells fired by the forces to disperse youth who were pelting them with stones as they were withdrawing after a search operation in the area.

The search operation was jointly launched by the army's 13RR Unit, SOG of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF in the area following inputs about the presence of militants.

Hajira was collecting charcoal in the front yard of her house in Danger Mohalla area when the forces fired tear smoke shells near Higher Secondary School in Mir Mohalla, said the relatives.

"There was a lot of smoke in the area and around our house. She (Hajira) felt unconscious as she had inhaled the tear smoke."

She was an asthma and diabetic patient," said a relative. The woman, he said, was declared dead at the hospital.

Police, however, claimed that there was no law and order situation in the area and no tear smoke shells were fired.

"When there was no law and order situation how is it possible that tear smoke shells would have been fired in the area. Nobody has died due to tear smoke in the area," said a senior police official of the district.

Meanwhile, BMO Hajin, Dr. Tariq Ahmad said that the woman was brought dead to the CHC Hajin. "She had died due to cardio pulmonary arrest. She was a chronic patient of asthma," he said.

The operation was laid following inputs about the presence of militants by Army's 13 RR Unit, SOG of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF in the area.