

RO Jammu reviews arrangements for counting of votes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Returning Officer Jammu Parliamentary Constituency (PC) (Deputy Commissioner), Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday convened a meeting with the contesting candidates and senior officers to review the arrangements for counting of votes and other issues related to Lok Sabha elections 2019.

The Returning Officer asked the district administration to put in place an appropriate mechanism to ensure that the counting process is conducted in most professional and efficient manner. He emphasized on elaborate plan for security arrangements, deployment of



Deputy Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar taking stock of health care facilities being provided to patients.

staff for counting of votes and mechanism for declaration of results.

He directed concerned officials to adhere to ECI directions and protocols while moving EVMS and VVPATS from strong room to counting halls. He asked the con-

testing candidates to timely appoint their agents, so that their ID proofs can be prepared before counting. He further said that counting of slips for five VVPAT machines per assemble segment will also be done while counting.

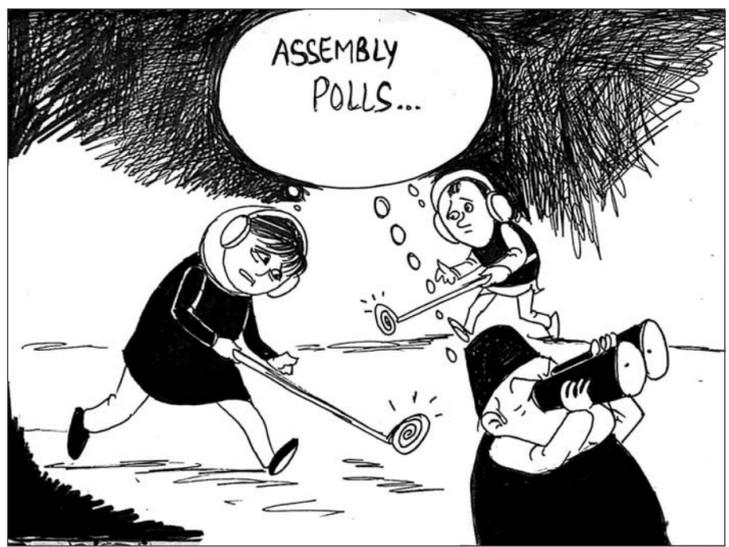
It was given out in the meeting that no person will be allowed to enter into the premises of counting centre without valid ID proof or any kind of electronic devices including mobile phones. The RO directed that all arrangements must be made in advance. He urged upon the officers to work with added zeal and in complete synergy so that counting process is conducted in smooth, transparent and professional manner.

Meanwhile, Ramesh Kumar also conducted inspection of Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu. He was apprised about the services/ facilities available in the hospital by

Medical Superintendent Dr Chander Prakash.

Ramesh Kumar had an elaborate round of the hospital, especially Labour Room-OT complex, Emergency Ward, Surgery Ward, OPD Complex, Gynaec & OBEST, Sick Newborn Care Unit, Laboratory, Radiology unit and other wards.

He also inspected the newly constructed 200-bedded Maternity Hospital. During the rounds, the DC also interacted with the patients and took their feedback. He appreciated the Hospital management for providing efficient services and advised to maintain the good work and provide all the facilities to the patients.



Mela Kheer Bhawani arrangements reviewed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Anshul Garg on Wednesday convened a meeting to review the arrangements to be made for Mela Kheer Bawani which is being celebrated on 10th June 2019.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, ACR, District Agriculture Officer, AD Food and other concerned.

The meeting was informed that the Mela will be celebrated at Tikker in Kupwara. Threeday discussions were held on lodging, STP work, construction of pre-fab sheds, repairing of dormitory and lavatory blocks, sanitation, barricading, fool-proof security, and general face-lifting in and around of the festival temples. The DC directed the concerned departments for making necessary arrangements.

Member SCOC briefs Guv on implementation of JJ Act



Governor Satya Pal Malik interacting with Member Selection cum Oversight Committee, Rajiv Khajuria.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Rajiv Khajuria, Member Selection cum Oversight Committee (SCOC) formed under the J&K Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children), met Governor Satya Pal Malik here on Wednesday.

Khajuria apprised Governor about the implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of Children) Act, 2013 in the

State and informed that Child Welfare Committees and JJ Boards are functional in all the 22 Districts across the State and are actively addressing the cases of Children in Need of Care and Protection and Children in Conflict with Law.

Khajuria requested Governor to nominate the Chairperson of SCOC so that vacant posts in CWCs and JJBs can be filled up, sought regularization of contractual

staff working in the ICPS, transfer of funds by State Government to the State Child Protection Society (SCPS) as per the Guidelines of Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, creation of posts of 14 full time Principal Magistrates in remaining Districts of the State, directions to all Deputy Commissioners for identification and transfer of land to ICPS Department for construction of various types of IHomes under the Act.

Governor assured Khajuria that necessary directions will be passed to the concerned departments regarding the issues raised by Khajuria and emphasised the vital importance of effectively fulfilling responsibilities assigned to the SCOC and SCPS for ensuring care and protection of children.

DGP discusses issues related to welfare of police personnel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh on Wednesday discussed various issues related to working of police, welfare of personnel, procurement, Police buildings and others.

In a meeting held here on Wednesday, the DGP said that the meeting has been called to have a discussion over different issues, which have been referred to the PHQ by subordinate wings/units or have come up for discussion in last few weeks. He said that these issues, dealt by different sections of PHQ, have direct bearing on the welfare and working of Police personnel.

The DGP expressed happiness over results of Police Public School Jammu and impressed



DGP Dilbag Singh chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

that some more measures need to be taken to further enhance the quality of education being imparted to wards of police personnel and other students in Police Public Schools. He complimented PWWA for taking keen interest in running the schools.

The DGP further advised officers to come up with fruitful suggestions for forthcoming Central Welfare Committee meet, sched-

uled on 25th of this month. He exhorted upon the officers to seek feedback from subordinate units and personnel and place the same before Central Welfare Committee, so that more and more welfare measures are taken for Police personnel.

On the occasion, A G Mir, ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ put a number of issues regarding welfare, canteens, petrol-pumps,

establishment, procurement and utilisation of building infrastructure for further discussion. The ADGP impressed upon different sections of PHQ to incorporate the suggestions for further addition in rules and regulations.

A K Choudhary ADGP (Coord) PHQ, S J M Gillani ADGP (Armed), A G Mir ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ, Muneer Khan ADGP (IG/Security/L&O), S D Singh Jamwal IGP (CIV) PHQ, J P Singh IGP (Personal) PHQ, Ahfadul Mujtaba IGP Crime, S P Pani IGP Kashmir, S M Kapoor Director Prosecution PHQ, SSP Srinagar, SSP (Hqrs) CID, SSP PCR Kashmir, AISG of PHQ and Section Officers of PHQ were also present.

GoI, Guv Admn defied Apex Court orders on assembly elections: Harsh

'JKNPP to file contempt petition in SC'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pointing towards judgement of the Supreme Court mandating timely conduct of Assembly elections in States where Legislative Assemblies are prematurely dissolved, JKNPP Chairman and Former Minister, Harsh Dev Singh on Wednesday accused the Government of India and Governor's administration of defying the orders of the Apex Court for vested interests.

Briefing media persons here, Harsh said that the Supreme Court in its judgement of September 2018 had ruled that process of conducting Assembly elections in States, where pre-mature dissolution of Lower House took place, needed to be completed within a period of six months. He further said that with J&K Assembly having been dissolved on November 21, 2018, the elections ought to have been completed before May 21, 2019 in terms of ruling of the SC, which however was not done for political and personal expediencies of the helmsman at the Centre and



JKNPP Chairman Harsh Dev Singh briefing media persons.

State. This amounted to violation of orders of the SC for which JKNPP would file a contempt petition against concerned parties in the Apex court, said Singh.

Accusing the Centre as well as State dispensation of having throttled democracy in J&K, Singh said that not only the mandatory directives of SC were disregarded but people were divested of their democratic rights and constitutional guarantees. He said that flimsy excuses given by the Government for delay in holding Assembly Elections in J&K could never satisfy the court, whose judgement had been circumvented and dismissed in the most casual manner. He said that the plea

of security constraints taken by the Government sounded illogical in a situation where the Parliamentary elections were held in the most peaceful manner in the State. Similarly the State Governor too had made a statement that 'not a sparrow has been harmed' during Panchayat and Municipal elections held last year, which were also claimed to be most peaceful elections ever held, said Singh.

Harsh further pointed out that even the Home Minister had made a statement in the last Budget session of the Parliament that security deployment in the State was not a problem and that the Home Department was all

prepared to provide as many troops as needed for Assembly elections, if held, along with Parliamentary polls. He further said that even Prime Minister, Narendra Modi had proposed simultaneous polls all across the country and subsequently blamed the opposition for not agreeing to his proposition. It was, however, the same Government which had declined to hold Assembly elections along with Lok Sabha polls, thereby proving their duplicitous character besides their precedence for personal interest over public good and legal obligations, rued Singh.

Announcing his decision to move the Supreme Court for early restoration of democratically elected Government in the State, Singh said that the contempt petition shall also be filed for unreasonably and unjustifiably failing to hold elections in the State in conformity with rulings of the Court.

Gagan Partap Singh, State Secretary JKNPP was also present in the press conference.

BJP stages protest over Kolkata violence



BJP leaders staging silent protest in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit staged a protest here on Wednesday against alleged attack on party President, Amit Shah's road show in Kolkata, terming the incident as 'an onslaught on democracy'. Led by BJP leader Ashok Kaul, a number of party workers assembled near the statue of Maharaja Hari Singh at Tawi Bridge and staged a 'silent sit-in' protest.

The protesters were carrying placards and banners against Trinamool Congress Government led by Mamta Banerjee in Kolkata.

Pertinent to mention here that BJP and TMC supporters on Tuesday fought

pitched battles on streets of Kolkata during Shah's road show. The BJP Chief escaped unhurt, but was forced to cut short the jamboree and had to be escorted to safety by Police.

BJP State General Secretary, Yudhvir Sethi alleged that there was 'total lawlessness' in West Bengal. "Sensing defeat in ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the opposition is hell bent to let the nation burn, so that they can rule according to their own whims and fancies making their riches grow," the BJP leader said.

BJP leader Narinder Singh said, "Mamta Banerjee is frustrated by BJP's growing base in the region, which forms the

basis of her panicked and ugly political moves."

Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta, MLC Ashok Khajuria, Rajni Rohmetra, Munish Sharma, Karan Singh, Arvind Gupta, Praduman Singh, Venu Khanna, Dr Pardeep Mahotra, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Munish Sharma, Jeet Angral, Garu Ram Bhagat, Rajwal, Prem Gupta, Rajinder Singh Chib, Veena Gupta, Shailja Gupta, Vikas Choudhary, Chandji Bhat, Kulwant Bhatti, Jaideep Sharma, Govind Sareen, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Advocate Hunar Gupta, Kuldeep Kandhari besides a number of other BJP leaders were also present in Dharna.

DG Trainings MSDE visits ITI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
ANANTNAG: The Director General (DG) Trainings Union Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Rajesh Agarwal, who is also the Additional Secretary Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India, on Wednesday visited Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Ashajipora Anantnag to take stock of its functioning.

The DG visited various sections of the ITI and interacted with the students and faculty of the institute. He stressed for introduction of job oriented courses and placement of the pass out students of the institute. The DG assured that all efforts will be done to make this institute at par with rest of the ITIs of the country.

The DG was accompanied by DDC Anantnag Khalid Jahangir, Director Technical Education J&K Dr. RS Sharma, Joint Director Technical Education Kashmir, Assistant Director Technical Education J&K Javed Ahmad and Principal ITI Anantnag.

Make airports completely accessible for differently-abled: DB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A Division Bench of state High Court comprising Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Tashi Rabstan directed Director Airports of Jammu, Leh and Srinagar that recommendation to be obtained so that all the three airports are made completely accessible to the differently-abled.

The court direction came in a Public Interest Litigation concerning differently-abled persons.

"The Airport Authority of India shall ensure that all measures as are essential for enabling access to the airports as well as aircrafts and all other facilities are provided at the airports", the DB held.

When the matter came-up for hearing, Division Bench on the request of ASGI granted six weeks time for filing report on behalf of Indian Air Force.

DB further observed that there has been one more aspect which has been over-

looked in this Public Interest Litigation which relates to the disability access audit of the airports in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. "Basic facilities as ambu lifts, tactile markings and toilets for those with special needs are not available. Nipman Foundation is assisting the issues relating to disability in PIL No.17/2018", the court observed and directed the Airport Directors, Srinagar, Jammu as well as Leh and the Airport Authority of India to coordinate with Nipun Malhotra (nipunmalh@gmail.com) and cause a disability access audit of the three airports to be undertaken. DB also directed that Airport Authority of India shall be responsible for ensuring and meeting expenses of all necessary facilities including accommodation and travel of Nipun Malhotra, his attendants and representatives of Nipman Foundation. The court directed the concerned to list the case on July 23, 2019.

Bandipora rape case: DB directs IG to file report on steps for effective probe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A Division Bench (DB) of State High Court comprising Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Tashi Rabstan on Wednesday took cognisance in the incident of rape of a minor girl on May 8, 2019, in the District Bandipora, Kashmir and impleaded IGP Kashmir, Secretary Health and Medical Education and Member Secretary Legal Aid and issued notice to the respondents for May 17, 2019.

DB also directed IG Kashmir to file a report on the steps for effective investigation into the matter as well as protection given to the victim and her family on or before the next date.

DB further directed Secretary Health and Medical Education to file report with regard to the steps taken regarding medical examination, medical treatment and counselling being administered to the victim.

DB further directed Member State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) to file a report regarding the status of effective legal aid granted to the victim as well as the status of the release of compensation admissible to the victim and also file a separate report regarding

all measures including sensitisation programmes underway in the matters relating to sexual violence.

During the course of hearing, DB observed that court's attention has been drawn towards extensive reporting in the media regarding the incident in question disclosing the identity of the minor victim. Such reporting has done grave injustice to the privacy and dignity of the child victim, court observed and added that immediate action is required to be taken to identify the reports in the print and electronic media wherein provisions of the Section 23 of the Jammu and Kashmir Protection of Children from Sexual Violence Ordinance, 2018, have been violated and action taken against the persons responsible for the same.

While taking cognisance, DB observed that several critical issues relating to the incident appear to need urgent attention. It also observed that there are reports in the media which express grave apprehensions with regard to the effectiveness of the investigation and attempts by accused persons to interfere with the same in order to prevent the guilty being brought to book. "There can be no manner of doubt that the investigating agency

has to be permitted to discharge its responsibilities independently and freely without any kind of interference and obstruction by any person or authority. Additionally the police is vested with the responsibility of ensuring adequate protection to the victim as well as her family", the court observed.

DB observed that at the same time, the rights of the victim have also to be ensured. Towards this end, the JKSLSA stands vested with the important functions of ensuring legal aid to the victim and grant of compensation to the victim under the scheme in vogue.

DB also observed that in cases of sexual violence, critical requirements of sensitive medical examination, treatment and counselling of the traumatised victim must be ensured. Adequate provision of aforesaid facilities is the responsibility of the medical authorities of the State, the court observed.

"The incident at hand is not the first incident of sexual violence in the State. Sexual violence unfortunately is endemic to human beings and is not confined to any particular culture, class, religion, age or geographical location. While legislations have attempted to take a strict view of the matter and provide

stringent punishments for sexual violence, however, it is increasingly being found that even youngsters are being implicated, some of them unwittingly rendering themselves liable under penal laws being ignorant and unaware of the consequences of their acts or omissions", DB observed.

DB observed that in order to address aforesaid concerns, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and the Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority had conceptualised a robust programme of sensitising and training school children within the ages of 14 to 17 years. "In this programme captioned as 'Child Abuse and Sexual Violence Interpersonal and Digital Interface', the children shall be informed that they could be held culpable under stringent penal laws (POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act, Ranbir Penal Code, IT Act) for omission/actions which they may have misguidedly or unwittingly committed. This programme also includes sensitising children on such usage of the electronic media which could invite stringent penalties under the Cyber laws. Additionally all the Secretaries of the District Legal

Services Authority have undergone an Orientation Training Programme with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority in the month of January, 2019", the court observed.

Senior Additional Advocate General, who happens to be present in the court, was requested to accept the notice on behalf of respondents. He accepted the notice and shall file reports in terms of this order positively on or before May 17, 2019.

Given the importance of this matter, DB appointed Farah Bashir, Advocate, as Amicus Curiae to assist the court. "DB is conscious of the fact that Bashir is a Government Advocate however, this appointment cannot come in the way of her assisting this Court in this important matter", the court held and directed Bashir to give details of the reports regarding the incident of May 8, 2019 which have been published in print and electronic media which may be in violation of Section 23 of the Jammu and Kashmir Protection of Children from Sexual Violence Ordinance, 2018. We shall proceed in respect of such reports upon receiving the list and copies of the reports, the court observed.