

## Congress, NC manipulated J&K Assembly to 6 year term: Dr Jitendra

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**JAMMU:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has accused the Congress party and the National Conference (NC) of manipulating the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly's term to six years, claiming they used Article 370 as a justification. This statement comes as the region experiences its first five-year term for the assembly in nearly five decades.

Speaking to reporters after casting his vote in the third and final phase of assembly elections, Dr. Singh stated, "For the first time, the tenure of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly will be five years instead of six. Previous rulers extended the assembly's term to six years under the pretext of Article 370." Dr. Singh recalled the political context of the 1975



amendment during Indira Gandhi's government, which extended the terms of assemblies and parliament. He pointed out that the NC, which was in power with Congress's support, quickly adopted this resolution without objection. However, when the Janata Party government revoked the amendment three years later, Dr. Singh claimed that the NC-Congress coalition exploited Article 370 to maintain their extended rule.

"Article 370 was abused by political dynasts for their own benefit and offered no advantages to the people," he added. The Union Minister emphasized the enthusiastic participation of voters in the current assembly polls as a sign of the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies and the "true mainstreaming" of democracy in the Union Territory. "Happiness is palpable. This is the first election

where we've seen no strike calls from Pakistan or boycotts from separatists," he noted.

Dr. Singh also acknowledged the West Pakistani refugees and other communities that had long been denied voting rights. He highlighted that these groups had been marginalized by previous governments using Article 370 and Article 35A. "Even those who gave India two prime ministers were deprived of their rights for decades," he said, referring to Manmohan Singh and I.K. Gujral. He concluded by asserting that the current electoral process signifies a turning point for Jammu & Kashmir, saying, "This election reflects the true mainstreaming of democracy. The people are voting in large numbers, just like in any other part of the country."

## BJP to form full majority government in J&K: Rana

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**JAMMU:** BJP candidate from Nagrota Assembly seat, Devender Singh Rana, cast his vote at a polling booth in Jammu on Tuesday morning.

After casting his vote, the BJP candidate praised Prime Minister Modi's leadership for reposing faith in the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "It is a festival of democracy and people are enthusiastic and people are participating in it with so much enthusiasm and passion. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and want to include themselves in this journey of Viksit Bharat...For the first time in Jammu and Kashmir, a full majority government of BJP



will be formed..."

The polling for the third and final phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections started here at 7 am today, with 40 constituencies going to the polls. Among the 40 constituencies, 24 are in the Jammu division and the rest in the Kashmir Valley.

Voting started at 7 AM and 6 PM, with security measures in place to ensure a smooth and peaceful process.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday also exuded confidence in winning the election and applauded the participation of women voters in large numbers in the

festival of democracy. In a post on X, PM Modi also called upon first-time voters to exercise their franchise. "Today is the third and last round of voting in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections. I request all voters to come forward and cast their votes to make the festival of democracy a success. I am confident that apart from the young friends who are going to vote for the first time, women power will also participate in the voting in large numbers," PM Modi wrote in a post on X. Among the 40 constituencies, 24 are in the Jammu division and the rest in the Kashmir Valley. At least 415 candidates, including former deputy Chief Ministers Tara Chand of Congress and Muzaffar Hussain Beig, are contesting in the third phase.

## Secularism will win, & people to take revenge through votes; says Yogesh Sawhney

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**JAMMU:** The Congress leader and candidate from Jammu East, Yogesh Sawhney, said on Tuesday that Congress will come to power and eradicate the atrocities committed by the BJP in the last 10 years.

Sawhney said, "Secularism will win and people will take revenge through their votes for the atrocities committed by the BJP in the last 10 years. Congress did not say that we will bring Article 370, but our demand will be that the youth of Jammu should get their jobs and their land should also be safe." He further said, "Statehood should be restored. My appeal to the people

is that we are fighting for the truth and I request people to go and vote and not sit at home."

BJP has fielded Yudhvir Sethi and Congress has fielded Yogesh Sawhney from Jammu East Assembly Constituency, where the polling will take place in the 3rd phase of the elections scheduled for October 1. The first phase of voting took place on September 18, and the second phase concluded on September 25. According to the Election Commission of India, the first and second phases of polling recorded voter turnouts of 61% and 57.31%, respectively. The campaigning saw major political parties, especially the BJP, Congress, NC, and PDP, engaging

in heated debates over key issues including Pakistan, Article 370, terrorism, and reservation.

High-profile leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah (BJP), Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and former J&K chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, and Mehbooba Mufti, were on the ground for weeks. The counting of the votes will be done on October 8.

Meanwhile, the polling for the third and final phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election has already begun at 7 am today (Tuesday), with 40 constituencies going to the polls.

## Long queues at polling stations 'proof' that people want change in J&K: Sham

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**JAMMU:** As polling for the third and final phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections is underway, BJP candidate from Jammu North constituency Sham Lal Sharma said that long queues outside polling stations were proof that people wanted change in J&K.

He cast his vote at a polling booth in Purkhoo Government School, Jammu on Tuesday.

Sham Lal Sharma said, "This is the biggest festival of democracy. People in J&K have been waiting for Assembly elections for a long time. The long queues outside polling stations are proof that people want change in J&K. I am confident that the people in 24 seats in the Jammu province which



includes Udhampur, Kathua, Samba and 11 seats of Jammu district are going to break the voting records of the last several years. I request the voters to choose the best candidates." He further said that this poll is a de-

cisive battle between the nationalists and anti-national people.

"PM Modi has set a political narrative and people have enthusiasm towards democracy and nation. All previous records of Assembly and Parliamentary elections would be broken," he added.

The polling for the third and final phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections started here at 7 am today with 40 constituencies going to the polls. Among the 40 constituencies, 24 are in the Jammu division and the rest in the Kashmir Valley. The polls began at 7 am on Tuesday and will conclude at 6 pm. Ex-Prime Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence in the participation of women voters in large numbers in the festival of democracy.

## "Unexpected voter turnout, J&K touching new heights": Raina

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**JAMMU:** State BJP President and candidate from Nowshera Assembly seat Ravinder Raina said that a large number of people are voting in the last phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and voting percentage has been unexpected. Ravinder Raina said, "A large number of people are voting in the last phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have participated wholeheartedly in this festival of democracy. These elections have been conducted very well. Polling percentage has been unexpected. This shows J&K is touching new heights and giving its contribution in strengthening new India. I would like to congratulate the security forces and EC for conducting the polls successfully." Former Deputy CM of J&K and BJP leader Kavinder Gupta was confident of BJP coming to power



"Elections are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir after 10 years and there is enthusiasm among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, people have shown their gratitude towards democracy and have expressed their faith in it, so I am sure that the government that will be formed will be in favour of democracy and in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party," he said. According to the latest data issued by Election Commission of India (ECI), Jammu and Kashmir recorded 11.60 per cent voting in the initial voter turnout trend till 9 am on Tuesday.

Of the seven districts, Udhampur district is leading in the voter turnout chart with 14.23 per cent voting, followed by Samba at 13.31 per cent, Kathua at 13.09 per cent, Bandipore 11.64 per cent, Jammu at 11.46 per cent, Kupwara at 11.27 per cent and Baramulla at 8.89 per cent till 9 am. The polls began at 7 am on Tuesday and will conclude at 6 pm. Voting will take place in 24 constituencies in the Jammu division and 16 constituencies in Kashmir amid strong security to ensure smooth and peaceful polls. The intensive campaign for

the third and final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections concluded on Sunday evening.

This election is notable as the first in a decade and the first since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. The three-phase election involves a multi-party contest for the 90 seats across the former state. The National Conference (NC) and the Congress have formed an alliance for these elections, while the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are among the other major contenders. The first phase of voting took place on September 18, and the second phase concluded on September 25. According to the Election Commission of India, the first and second phases of polling recorded voter turnouts of 61 per cent and 57.31 per cent, respectively. The counting of the votes will be done on October 8.

## Weeklong educational tour for 5th Semester students of GDC Zanskar concludes

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**KARGIL:** Government Model Degree College (GDC) Zanskar concluded a week-long educational tour to Leh and Nubra which was started on September 23, 2024. During the tour the students of 5th Semester under the supervision of Dr Abid Husain, Thupstan Dolkar and Dr Syed Waqir have visited several educational and research institutes, including Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL), the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). In addition to academic engagements, the students also had the chance to explore some of Leh's most iconic historical sites like Leh Palace, Shey Palace, Shey Masjid and Alchi Choskor. They also interacted with the students and faculty members of GDC



Nubra. Dr. Motup, Principal of GDC Nubra, addressed the visiting students, delivering a motivational speech and sharing valuable insights. As part of the educational visit, the students also had the opportunity to ex-

plore Panamic Hot Spring and Samstangling Gompa, where they gained first-hand knowledge about the region's rich cultural heritage, particularly the 19th-century monastery. During the night, they stayed at Hunder Valley. On Sept 28, 2024, the stu-

dents visited the famous Hunder Sand Dunes to study the unique double-humped camels, gaining valuable insights into the region's distinctive fauna. Following this, they explored the villages of Turtuk, Thang, and Tyakshi.

## Special lecture session on National Credit Framework at UoL Kargil Campus

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**KARGIL:** The Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh (UoL) organized a special lecture session on the National Credit Framework (NCRF), here the other day. The session, aimed at familiarizing the faculty members with the importance of NCRF in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, was met with great enthusiasm and participation.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mehboob Ali, Incharge Administration, emphasized the significance of NCRF at both undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) levels, referring to the NEP 2020 as a guiding framework for the future of education in the country. He highlighted that the NCRF serves as an essential tool in promoting flexibility, inclusivity, and mobility in higher education. The special lecture was enriched by the insights of the two resource persons: Dr. Gulam Murtaza, Assistant Professor, Political Science, and Dr. Hadi Ali, Assistant Professor, Chemistry. In his lecture titled "The



National Credit Framework as a Framework for Well-Rounded Education," Dr. Murtaza elaborated on the foundational principles of NCRF, emphasizing its role in shifting Indian education away from a colonial mindset toward a more flexible, skill-based, and inclusive approach. According to Dr. Murtaza, the NCRF allows students to accumulate credits not only from traditional classroom learning but also from a variety of practical and co-curricular activities such as laboratory work, vocational training, research projects, sports, yoga, and social service. He also highlighted the

NCRF's emphasis on democratizing education and promoting social equity, stating that the framework provides greater access to a wide array of learning opportunities, thus fostering social mobility. Dr. Murtaza pointed out that by integrating vocational and skill training within the higher education system, the NCRF ensures that students are not only academically competent but also prepared to meet the demands of the modern workforce. Proceeding further, Dr. Hadi Ali, provided an Enlightening Lecture on Postgraduate Curriculum Framework and National Credit Framework (NCRF). Dr. Ali elaborated

on the postgraduate (PG) framework, explaining how it aligns with the NCRF to facilitate the creditization, accumulation, storage, transfer, and redemption of learning experiences. The flexibility offered by the new framework allows students to tailor their learning journeys, whether they pursue course work, research, or a combination of both. In line with the NEP 2020's focus on continuous and formative assessment, Dr. Ali outlined the assessment strategy that correlates with learning outcomes, promoting a holistic evaluation system over the traditional summative methods. He further

discussed how the UGC's Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) facilitates student mobility and flexibility across institutions, enhancing the student's ability to craft personalized educational paths. Following the lectures, a robust discussion and deliberation took place among the faculty members, focusing on the practical implications and challenges of implementing the NCRF at the university level. The exchange of ideas and perspectives from various disciplines enriched the understanding of how the framework can be adapted to meet the diverse needs of the students and the institution.

## GDC Kargil launches Cleanliness Drive under "Swachhata Hi Seva" Campaign

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**KARGIL:** Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil took a significant step towards promoting cleanliness today by organizing a cleanliness drive within its campus as part of the nationwide "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign.

The event was spearheaded by the College Discipline Committee and the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit, and it saw enthusiastic participation from the college's teaching staff, non-teaching staff, and students. To kick off the cleanliness drive, the College Discipline Committee and NSS unit distributed masks and soaps to all participants, ensuring that health and safety protocols were in place. Following this, each department was tasked with cleaning their respective offices, laboratories, classrooms, and surrounding areas, fostering a sense of community responsibility. As a part of the initiative,



all staff members and students pledged, both in English and the local language, to uphold the values of the "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign, which promotes cleanliness as a vital part of public health and hygiene. The event concluded with a motivational address by Prof. Disket Angmo, Principal of GDC Kargil. She

emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and outlined the objectives of the "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign. Prof. Angmo also urged everyone to take personal responsibility in contributing to a cleaner environment, reinforcing the idea that a clean campus reflects a healthy community.