

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024: LS Elections: Celebration of Democracy: Border villages come alive with enthusiastic voters



**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWSRS  
PURA/SUCHETGARH/AR-  
NIA/VIJAYPUR, APRIL 26:**

In the sprawling wheat fields of RS Pura and Suchetgarh villages, nestled along the International Border, a vibrant celebration of democracy unfolded. These remote communities, despite enduring challenging weather conditions, ensured an unprecedented voter turnout, emerging as beacons of participation.

The journey to polling booths wasn't just a physical one; it was a testament to the unwavering spirit of democracy that runs deep within these communities. First time voter Manish Kumar from Jajowal village of Chakroi in Suchetgarh Assembly Segment, couldn't contain his enthusiasm. "I'm thrilled to cast my first vote," he said while waiting in the queue at the Pan-chayat Ghar Jajowal polling station. "It empowers us to choose our representative for progress. I've been eagerly waiting for this day!" His excitement echoed the sentiment of many young voters who traveled all the way from

Punjab to exercise their franchise in their native villages.

For these villagers, voting transcends civic duty. It's a commitment towards shaping their nation's future. Decades of enduring cross-border shelling haven't dampened their spirits. Their resolve to vote stems from a deep-seated belief in the power of their ballots.

Beyond the impressive numbers lies a powerful narrative of hope and determination. Each ballot cast is a declaration of resilience, a reaffirmation of faith in the democratic process. These

villages, standing tall in the face of adversity, exemplify the indomitable spirit of the Indian electorate. Their overwhelming turnout sends a resounding message: democracy is not just a privilege, but a responsibility they wholeheartedly embrace. Bipin Singh, another first time voter from Sai Kalan village, Suchetgarh, echoed this sentiment. "I'm honored to cast my first vote," he said, standing patiently in a long queue. "It's my power, and I'll use it for my area's development." His message resonated with many young voters, urging them

to participate and strengthen the nation's democratic fabric.

At polling station 97-Nakowal, situated along the border village of the same name, Presiding Officer Sahil Rattan and his dedicated team ensured a smooth voting experience. Similarly, nonagenarian Munshi Ram, assisted by his family, cast his vote at 99-Sai Khurd polling station in RS Pura. "Voting makes me happy," he said after exercising his franchise. "It gives me inner peace, irrespective of the winner. I'm content knowing I fulfilled my duty." Meanwhile, located near the

renowned Border Out Post Octroi in RS Pura, polling station 61-Abdal reported a significant turnout with over 50% of registered voters casting their ballots by 3 pm.

Interestingly, BOP Octroi itself is attracting visitors from various regions of the country and highlights the growing popularity of border tourism.

The enthusiastic participation of RS Pura and Suchetgarh villages serves as an inspiration for all: a powerful reminder that democracy thrives when its citizens actively engage in the process.

## Apni Party's vibrant public rally in city outskirts rattles its political opponents

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 26**

Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Friday, said that Apni Party, when it comes in power, will hold regional parties and their leaders accountable for their involvement in the killings of innocent people in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Apni Party's government will ensure that these ruthless leaders face the full force of justice.

He made these remarks while addressing a public rally in the Mujkund area of the Batamallo constituency. This public rally was a part of the party's ongoing poll campaign for the LS elections.

People, men and women, thronged the rally venue despite the rain. They gave a rousing reception to Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and his accompanying leaders upon their arrival at the venue.

Addressing the rally, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari appealed to people to vote for the party's candidate Mohammad Ashraf Mir in the Lok Sabha elections in Srinagar constituency. He said, "I urge you to support the Apni Party and ensure Ashraf Sahib's victory so that, unlike former MPs, he can truly represent the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in parliament. I assure you that if you give your mandate to Apni Party, it will not disappoint you."

Lashing out at the traditional political parties and their leaders, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari pledged that "when Apni Party comes to power, it will ensure that the parties and leaders involved in fake encounters face the full force of justice." He was referring to the recent revelations by the Union Home Minister, who revealed that NC, PDP, and Congress have been involved in killings in fake encounters in the past.

He said, "None other than the country's Home Minister has revealed that these parties have been responsible for killings in fake encounters in the past. I promise you that if the Apni Party receives the public mandate, it will ensure justice. Nobody will be spared. We will unearth the facts and hold accountable those



involved in such gruesome crimes."

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said that the Apni Party has a clear vision for a brighter future of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "We have both the will and the potential to elevate Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of prosperity and development. The Apni Party will ensure the political and economic empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We will get J&K's statehood restored; we will ensure our imprisoned youth are returned to their families; we will create employment opportunities here to secure the future of our younger generation. I assure you that, unlike traditional parties, our focus will be on fostering peace, prosperity, and well-being for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Speaking on the occasion, party's Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir extended his gratitude to the people for participating in Apni Party's rallies in large numbers. He said, "The way people attend our rallies and conventions in various areas across Jammu and Kashmir indicates that our clear and unambiguous messages have reached the people and touched their hearts. It gives me immense pleasure to see such a large gathering here despite the unpleasant weather."

Reiterating Apni Party's agenda and policies, Ghulam Hassan Mir said, "This party was established in March 2020, at a time when the people of Jammu and Kashmir were in deep distress due to the abrogation of Article 370. At that time, people were apprehensive that J&K would face a demographic change and that people would lose their identity, as well as exclusive rights to jobs and land here. Unfortunately, the traditional leaders, who had been at the helm for the past 70 years, abandoned the people in that testing time. We decided to step forward and stand with our people. We established this party and went to New Delhi to meet the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and other leaders, successfully convincing them to allow exclusive rights for the people of J&K over jobs and land here."

He said that Congress and BJP were equally against the article 370. He said, "Congress hollowed out Article 370 over the decades, and the BJP revoked it once and for all; both are two faces of the same coin when it comes to Article 370."

Mir assured that the Apni Party will ensure the political and economic empowerment of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as a dignified life for its youth.

Besides Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and Ghulam Hassan Mir, the prominent party leaders who were present on the occasion included Provincial President Kashmir and the party's In-charge for the Habba Kadal constituency Jeelani Hamid Kumar, District Youth President and Khanyar constituency's in-charge Mohsin Zaffar Shah, District Coordinator Srinagar Tanbir Singh Sodhi, District Secretary Srinagar Peer Wajahat, In charge for the party headquarters Towseef Bashir, Advocate Mohsin, Master Kuldeep Singh, Waseem Dar, Zafar Habib, Irfan Zargar, Ali Mohammad Mir, Shazad Bhat, Mudasir Ahmad, and others.

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## Lok Sabha Elections-2024 Scrutiny of nomination papers completed for 02-Srinagar PC

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 26**

In accordance with the election schedule issued by Election Commission of India (ECI) for the conduct of Lok Sabha Elections-2024, the scrutiny of nomination papers for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat was held today (April 26, 2024 Friday) in the office of the Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary constituency (DC Office Complex Srinagar).

During the scrutiny of all 39 nomination papers received, 29 nominations were found valid as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

The candidates whose nominations were found valid and accordingly accepted include Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi from Jammu Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Mohammad Ashraf Mir from J&K Apni Party, Waheed ur Rehman Para from Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party, Amir Ahmad Bhat from Democratic Progressive Azad Party, Younis Ahmad Mir from Bharat Jodo Party, Rubina Akhtar from National Lok-Tantrik Party, Ashiq Hussain Bhat from Rashtriya



Jan Kranti Party, Hakikat Singh from National Panthers Party (Bhim) and Mohammad Yousuf Bhat from Gana Suraksha Party.

Similarly, the nomination papers of the independent candidates namely Sheeban Ashahi, Nissar Ahmad Ahangar, Mirza Sajad Hussain Beigh, Jibrin Dar, Shahnaz Hussain Shah, Amin Dar, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Sayim Mustafa, Waseem Hassan Sheikh, Ghulam Mohammad Wani, Hilal Ahmad Dar, Wahida Tabasum, Dr. Qazi Ashraf, Qaiser Sultan Ganai, Abdul Hamid Rather, Javid Ahmad Wani, Jehangir Ah-

mad Sheikh, Sajad Ahmad Dar and Sauqib Makhdoomi were also found valid and accordingly accepted by the Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary constituency.

On the occasion, the candidature of Salman Sagar from Jammu Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) becomes null and void due to formal consideration/approval of the candidature of the main Candidate of JKNC as he was the covering candidate from the same party.

Likewise, nominations of 10 candidates stood rejected as their nomination papers were found invalid

during the scrutiny as per ECI norms.

The scrutiny was held in presence of General Observer for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Mukul Kumar, contesting candidates and their proposers. As per the Election notification, the candidates can withdraw their nomination by April 29, 2024 (Monday) before 03:00 pm in the office of Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

The 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency is scheduled for Elections on May 13, 2024 under phase 4th of General Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

## KVK holds extension personnel training at Kishtwar

**KISHTWAR, APR 26:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu organized one day training programme on Insect Pest Management in maize crop for the extension personnel of Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare Kishtwar under the guidance of Dr Amrsh Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. 30 officers and extension personnel of the department from the district attended the training programme.

Dr Narinder Paul, Head KVK Kishtwar organized the programme. Amjad Hussain Malik Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Khalid Zargar, Jamshed Hussain SMS DL, Manzoor Ahmad Zargar SDAO Marwah, Agriculture extension officers of different zones of the District also participated in the programme. During the programme,



Dr Narinder Paul deliberated upon the scenario of maize production in the UT of J&K with special emphasis on Kishtwar. He highlighted that productivity of crop is quite low in the district owing to several factors of which the incidence of insect pests is major threat to the crop. Identification, nature of damage and management of different potential insect pests of maize prevalent in the district were deliberated upon during the programme. Maize cut worm, stem borer, Fall

Army worm and several other insects posing threat to the maize crop were discussed.

The participants were also trained about different management practices including cultural, chemical, biological and use of pheromone traps/lures for further extending the knowhow and do how to the farmers level. Komal Sharma deliberated in detail on the stem borer and fall armyworms.

Amjad Hussain Malik CAO Kishtwar while speak-

ing on the occasion, pinned hope that the training programme would be of immense help to the field extension functionaries in further educating the farmers about management of these pests and thereby saving the crop from their attack. At the end of the technical programme an interactive session was held in which the queries of the participants were discussed. Programme ended with vote of thanks by Khalid Bashir Zargar, SMD DL.