

SP: Don't add political colour to Ram Navami

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hazaribag: Hazaribag superintendent of police (SP) Arvind Kumar Singh directed police officials on Saturday to follow the guidelines for the religious processions that would be taken out to celebrate Ram Navami festival on Wednesday.

The model code of conduct (MCC) has been implemented for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The officers in-charge of police stations across the district, the sub-divisional police officers of Hazaribag headquarters, Barhi, Barkagaon, and Bishnugarh, as well as the DSP headquarters, attended the meeting.

The SP said the 'akharas', which organise the rallies, should not be swayed by political leaders or add any political colour to the events.

"A total of 5,000 police personnel, accompanied by magistrates, would monitor the processions. The district administration would deploy 60 drone cameras to keep tabs on the processions. If any procession is found to be politically motivated, especially by candidates participating in the election, the organisers



SP Arvind Kumar Singh during a meeting with police officers

Asking residents to cooperate with the administration, SP Arvind Kumar Singh said anyone found violating the MCC during the festival would be arrested

would face serious consequences for breaching the MCC," he warned.

Stated that anyone caught violating the MCC would be immediately arrested, SP Singh urged the residents to celebrate the Ram Navami festival peacefully and to cooperate with the administration in completing the processions on time.

The district administration is receiving assistance from the central paramilitary forces and the RAF.

Champai canvasses for Joba in Seraikela

Says BJP-Led Govt Misused Central Agencies

B Sridhar | TNN

Jamshedpur: Chief minister (CM) Champai Soren, who is also the vice-president of JMM, on Saturday urged the booth-level workers to set aside differences, if any, and unite in support of the party candidate. He also directed them to visit every household before May 13, when the Singhbhum (ST) Lok Sabha constituency goes to polls.

The CM presided over two meetings with the party members at Gamharlia block and one at Adityapur on the first day of his three-day tour to his assembly constituency, Seraikela, to review the preparations for the upcoming elections.

Addressing the workers, the CM said, "Comprehensive information about the welfare schemes and the development programmes launched and implemented by the state govt should reach every household. Besides, the employment schemes should be conveyed to young voters." He cited the pension scheme for all, the 1932 Khatiyan policy, 75 per cent job reservation for locals in private organisations, and a housing scheme for economically weaker sections.



Chief minister Champai Soren chairs a meeting of JMM workers at a hotel in Adityapur on Saturday

A member, who attended the meeting in Gamharlia, said, "Motivating the party workers to put up a united fight, the CM said strong booth management would ensure the win of the party candidate."

The president of JMM's Seraikela-Kharsawan district, Shuvendu Mahato, said the CM attacked BJP during

the Adityapur meeting for the latter's misuse of central agencies to target the opposition parties and implicate popular leaders belonging to the opposite camp. Calling upon the party workers to expose the saffron party, Champai noted that there was a growing sympathy for former CM Hemant Soren, who has been in jail since February 1 in a false land scam case.

INDIA bloc has fielded JMM's Manoharpur MLA Joba Majhi, while BJP has placed its hope on MP Geeta Koda, who had joined hands with Narendra Modi after deserting Congress on February 26.

Just 500km to vote but some won't make it

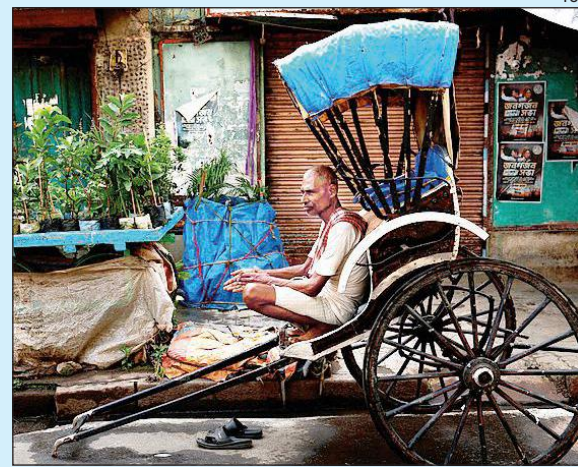
Prajanna Das
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The Nitish-Lalu-Modi debate is no more confined to Bihar only. Kolkata, home to many migrant workers from neighbouring Bihar and Jharkhand, is an integral part of it. While some plan to visit home during the elections, some might not make it this time — mostly due to financial crunch.

Ajit Kumar, a resident of Nawada district, runs a roadside kiosk selling sattu in central Kolkata. Ajit is set to leave for home on April 18 and plans to get back to work by April 22. "I plan my visits on an election year so that I get to see my family

for a few days as well. But the visit is short this year as I had just been back home when my granddaughter fell ill," he added.

While Ajit will still stay a few days at home, Rakesh Kumar, a paan shop owner in eastern Kolkata's Saltlake area, will be on a whirlwind visit to Darbhanga from May 12 to May 14. "I have recently brought my wife and two kids to Kolkata. Both my children, an 8-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter now study in a school in Kolkata. It is still a new city for them. I will have to come back early for



A rickshaw-puller in Kolkata

their sake," he said.

A resident of Samastipur, which also goes to election on May 13, Madan Singh said they can't afford to keep their paan shop shut so while he will go back home and vote, his brother Manoj will be back in Kolkata to manage their shop. "We are going through some financial issues right now and cannot keep the shop shut for even a day," he said.

Subhash Yadav is one of those who would not be able to go home to vote. Jha is a rickshaw-puller in north Kolkata and has been in Kolkata for over 40 years now. "I have gone back home to vote on most years for the first 20-25 years. But now I hardly make enough to sustain my nuclear set-up here. Visiting home once a year is a

luxury," added the Darbhanga resident.

Manoj Kumar Rajak, who works as a driver in Kolkata, said he feels it is important to exercise his right to vote. He feels the govt has provided many amenities in recent years but there are still some issues that need resolution — job opportunities being one of them.

"The govt has built good roads, and infrastructure and made many services available," he said. But Rajak also feels no one should have to stay away from family to earn a living. "If I had work in Hazaribagh would I stay here? Never. There should be more opportunities made available to us so that we do not have to leave our families behind," said the father of two.

State must cooperate with Centre for tribal devt: Arjun Munda

Debasish Chatterjee
@timesgroup.com

Tamar: Many of the Central govt schemes for the welfare of common man are not seeing the light of the day in Jharkhand as the present JMM-Congress-RJD mahagathbandhan regime has been creating hurdles since 2019, alleged Union minister and BJP candidate for Khunti parliamentary constituency (ST) Arjun Munda.

The agriculture minister who has been on a whirlwind tour of his constituency everyday since his name was announced by the party in the first list visited Tamar, a place known for producing quality tomatoes. Talking to TOI, he said, "Modi is committed to developing each and every individual, especially the poor, downtrodden and women.



Arjun Munda during his campaign in Tamar on Saturday

But due to the lack of a double-engine government in the state since 2019, most of the projects sanctioned by the Centre are being put in cold sack by the earlier Hemant govt and now the Champai govt."

Hurdles are being put up in land acquisition for various projects, he added. Giving examples, the former chief minister alluded, "Centre wanted to open more aided

schools in the state so that tribal populations get better education in their own villages but the state govt is not cooperating." He pointed out that more medical colleges need to be opened for students here so that the quality of health care goes up in national ranking but here, too, the state is not ready to help.

He pointed out Khunti, once a Maoist-hit neglected area, now boasts of residential schools for girls and availability of clean drinking water even during summer. Notably, Arjun Munda is contesting the seat second time in a row against Congress' Kali Charan Munda, whom he defeated by around 1,000 votes last time.

Notably, Khunti seat, where polls are scheduled on May 13, is one of the four reserved seats in the state, where women voters outnumber men.

Munda kicks off Simdega campaign

K A Gupta | TNN

Gumla: BJP Khunti nominee and Union minister for tribal affairs and agriculture & farmers welfare, Arjun Munda, on Saturday kicked off his election campaign from Palkot block of Gumla district which comes under Simdega assembly constituency of Khunti Lok Sabha seat. This is his first campaigning in Simdega assembly constituency after he was named as candidate for the Khunti scheduled tribe (ST) reserved seat in Jharkhand.

Munda won this seat in the 2019 general elections defeating his nearest rival Kali Charan Munda of Congress. The saffron brigade had then fielded him replacing BJP old horse Karia Munda, the former deputy speaker to the Lok Sabha. During his elec-

tion campaign, Munda visited a number of villages in Palkot block including Juratoli, Tengaria, Malai, Bagesera, Tukutoli and Tira. He said to villagers that the saffron party fulfilled what it promised and lauded several achievements of the BJP govt.

He said, "During the BJP regime, the Ram temple was built, Article 370 was scrapped, 33% reservation for women was provisioned, Har Ghar Jal Yojna, ration for poor and others' initiatives were also taken by the Narendra Modi govt." Munda appealed to people to vote in favour of the BJP in large number.

"Arjun Munda will start campaigning in rest of Simdega and entire Kolebira assembly constituencies from Sunday," said Sushil Srivastav, Munda's Simdega district representative.

Voter awareness campaign in Ranchi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ranchi: The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) team on Friday flagged off a voter awareness campaign vehicle from the collectorate premises, marking another step towards encouraging voter turnout in Ranchi district.

The campaign vehicle was inaugurated by district election officer-cum-deputy commissioner Rahul Kumar Sinha, nodal officer SVEEP cell-cum-deputy development commissioner Dinesh Kumar Yadav and deputy election officer Bivek Kumar Suman. The vehicle will traverse Ran-



DC Rahul Kumar Sinha (extreme R) inaugurates the campaign vehicle

Voter Awareness Forum, Electoral Literacy Club, and Residents Welfare Association to ensure maximum voter awareness."

He urged voters to exercise their franchise on May 25, 2024, the voting day for the Ranchi Lok Sabha constituency, emphasizing the importance of their participation.

Sinha also highlighted the efforts of booth awareness group, booth-level officers, BLO supervisors, safai mitras and safai supervisors in creating awareness about the voting process. Voter slips will also be provided to voters through BLOs ten days prior to the polling day.

fashiontv

f BAR
by fashiontv

F BAR

WE ARE

NOW OPEN

JAMSHEDPUR
RSVP- 8655838153

2 nd floor, Right wing, P & M Hi-Tech City Centre Mall Nears Reliance Trends
Bistupur Jamshedpur Jharkhand 831001

ENTRY: 21 YEARS AND ABOVE

www.ftvfranchise.in

5+ franchise
verticals