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Boycotting 2018 Panchayat...

agitation in case such a thing occurred. "We will be ready to sacrifice our lives. Farooq Abdullah will be the first to start an agitation over that," he said. He said the government "had shut July 13 from us, but we will mark it again once again one day".

He was referring to the removal of July 13 -- which commemorates the killing of 23 persons protesting against the autocratic rule in Jammu and Kashmir by Dogra forces in 1931 -- from the holiday list.

"They cannot be forgotten. They sacrificed their lives for this state," he added. Abdullah said, "There is a war on our identity. They thought Article 370 was only for Muslims in Kashmir. But today, the people of Jammu have understood that articles 35A and 370 were good for them also.

"Today, our offices are filled with officers from outside. Are Kashmiris not good enough? We are being made slaves and are being taken towards slavery. But this slavery will not remain. God willing, this slavery will see its funeral one day," he said.

The veteran leader said, "You have to keep courage. There will be injustices and they have nothing except that. They will do it but God will punish them in hell.

"I want to tell them to stop these injustices with the people here. Otherwise, an earthquake may come which you will not be able to withstand."

The NC chief said those in positions of power in the current administration would be held answerable in front of the people.

"They will stand before you, God willing, and if they do not seek an apology, then do not call me Farooq Abdullah. That day will come as I have faith in my God and you. A change will come here. Democracy will flourish, Kashmiriyat will flourish and justice will be done," he added. He also appealed to the delegates to maintain brotherhood, saying "it is our biggest power".

Farooq Abdullah re-elected...

elections were held five years ago. NC general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar said only Abdullah's nomination was received till the last date of filing papers. A total of 183 proposals from Kashmir; 396 from Jammu and 25 from Ladakh were received in support of Farooq Abdullah, the party said. The former union minister was first elected NC president in 1981 when his father Sheikh Abdullah was the chief minister. Before the 2002 assembly polls, Farooq Abdullah's son Omar was elected the NC president as the senior leader wanted the younger generation to take up the mantle.

Omar stepped down in 2014 and his father was once again elected the president. He has remained the party president since.

During a party meeting recently, Abdullah had expressed a desire to step down from the post owing to his health. The party then set the presidential election process into motion and said the new president would be elected at the party's delegate session.

It said the party's internal elections had already been concluded. However, the party persuaded Abdullah to lead it for another term.

Congratulating Farooq Abdullah on his re-election, Omar said his father earlier decision not to continue as party president had not only surprised them but caused them a lot of tension.

"He announced it without any discussions. We were heartbroken, we lost our mental balance, because he was leaving us in such a situation where we have to take the fight forward and take the state out from the morass...when we have to fight the injustice done to us on August 5, 2019 and prepare the party for the forthcoming tests," Omar said.

"After that day, I was continuously persuading my father," he said. "If you (Farooq) do not want to remain the party president, then the NC will not have any president. Do you want the NC to function with a president?"

Omar said the party has to learn a lot from the experience of its president. He said other leaders in the party will have more responsibility and assured his

father that they will take his message to every corner of J-K.

JK BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur NC election was all a mere drama, "rather a pre-planned move to gain media attention".

"Dynasty rule yet again. Re-election of Dr Farooq Abdullah as National Conference president shows party confined to dynasty politics which has lost ground and faith among people of J&K. No place for family rule and dynasty politics in J&K," he said.

Around 43 pc...

and concluded at 2.P.M. in after noon passed of peacefully with people across the age groups participating. Kashmiri Migrants also cast their votes in the special polling stations setup for them in different places in Jammu.

Counting for both the Constituencies will be held on 8th December.

Govt calls All...

along with those of six assembly and one Lok Sabha bypolls, are counted.

The government has also sought the cooperation of party leaders to ensure smooth functioning of both the Houses.

The Winter Session of Parliament will commence on December 7 and continue till December 29, having 17 sittings spread over 23 days.

PM chairs key...

the meeting, the CPI(M) reiterated that India's turn at the helm of the grouping is by the dint of a "rotating presidency".

Opposition leaders' comments are apparently aimed at countering the ruling BJP's attempt to project the development as a major success for the government.

"Every country in the G20 will automatically be President when their turn comes," Yechury said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge highlighted at the meeting that India has in the past chaired the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit.

Raja said the government should take the opportunity to showcase the achievements of India's youths and farmers, and pitched for empowering women by bringing in legislation for reservation for them.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Sikkim's Prem Singh Tamang, and Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart Jagan Mohan Reddy, Tamil Nadu's M K Stalin, B-JP president J P Nadda, former prime minister H D Deve Gowda and Telugu Desam Party chief Chandrababu Naidu.

Those on the government side present at the meeting included Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

India officially assumed the G20 presidency on December 1.

The country is expected to host over 200 preparatory meetings across the country beginning this month. The next G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of heads of states or governments is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 next year in New Delhi. G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union.

Purpose of charity...

the plea, the bench said, "Do not be so technical. We are here to find a solution. We are here for a cause. We are here to set things right. If the purpose of the charity is good then it is welcome but what is required to be considered is the intention.

"Do not take it as adversarial. It is a very serious issue. Ultimately it is against our Constitution. When everyone stays in India, they have to act per the culture of India," the bench observed.

There have been accusations against some religious orders that they were converting people from other religions by offering various forms of charity including education for their children.

The apex court will now take up the matter on December 12.

family members also took help of the army but did not get any success. On Monday morning, body of Sukhdev Sharma was found lying near a river near Palma village.

Three injured in separate mishaps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three persons were injured in two different incidents on Monday. The first incident took place on Arli Marg of Katra where two vehicles coming from opposite direction collided resulting in injuries to Akhil Sharma, son of Subhash Chandra, resident of Panthal, Katra. The locals shifted him to Katra Hospital for a treatment.

Meanwhile, a mixer vehicle, without registration number, on way from Katra towards Reasi fell into Ban Ganga near Balini check-post, due to which two people including driver got injured. As soon as the information was received, police reached the spot and shifted injured to Katra Hospital for treatment. The injured were identified as Muzaffar, son of Abdul Hameed, resident of Khadi, Sangaldan and Rahil, son of Mohammad Ramzan, resident of Talwara, district Reasi.

Three theft cases solved, 3 arrested, stolen items recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Monday solved three theft cases by arresting 3 accused persons and recovered stolen items.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Kahnachak by one Rakesh Kumar, son of Rattan Lal, resident of Chak Mani, District Jammu, regarding theft of tyre from Mahindra Bolero Pickup at Shama Chak. Similarly another complaint was lodged at Police Station Kahnachak by one Arjun Kumar, son of Ganga Ram, resident of Kangrail, Tehsil Bhalwal, Jammu, regarding theft of tyres from his shop at Bawa Talab. In this regard, two FIRs 148, 149/2022 under section 379 of IPC were registered at Police Station Kanachak and investigation started.

After this, teams of Police Station Kahnachak under supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh led by SHO Kahnachak Inspr Rahul Mahajan, after putting in strenuous efforts and with help of CCTV footages, finally rounded up two suspects namely Mohd Qasim, son of Mohd Akram, resident of Dhara Fatehpur Tehsil Mandi in FIR 148/2022 and Mohd Zakir, son of Rehmat Ali, resident of Kangar Morh in FIR 149/2022. During sustained questioning, accused confessed their involvement in thefts and on their disclosure stolen items were recovered from their possession. It is pertinent to mention that the both the accused were involved in many other cases also.

Meanwhile, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Gangval by one Rajinder Langer, son of B N Langer, resident of 51/5, Shankar Colony, Gangval Jammu stating that he along with family members went to market and when returned back, found that some unknown person had stolen a camera and Rs 10,000 cash from their house. On receipt of application FIR 127/2022 under section 454/380 of IPC was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station Gangval under supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma led by SHO Gangval Inspr Ajaz Haider, after putting in strenuous efforts, rounded up a suspect later identified as Abhi Mehra, son of Satpal, resident of Shankar colony, Gangval. During intensive questioning, accused confessed his involvement in theft and on his disclosure stolen DSLR camera worth Rs 50,000 was recovered.

45 bovines rescued, 3 smugglers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Tightening noose over bovine smuggling, Poonch police rescued 45 bovines from clutches of smugglers, while foiling smuggling bid in Surankote area.

As per details, on directions of SSP Poonch Rohit Baskotra, teams headed by DySP Surankote Sheezaan Bhatt, SHO Police Station Surankote and Incharge Police Post Behramgalla established Nakas at Behramgalla / Dogrian/Poshana areas.

During Naka checking, police apprehended 3 bovine smugglers namely Ghulam Abass, son of Mohd Hussain, resident of Triath Rajouri; Aabid Khan, son of Mushtaq Khan, resident of Harni Mendhar and Nisar Ahmed, son of Ghulam Qadir Khan, resident of Rakh Bara Teh Shangus Anantnag and seized 3 Trucks (JK01AC 0948, JK02BM 5525 & JK12B 3974). In this connection FIRs 412, 413 & 414 of 2022 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act were registered at Police Station Surankote.



Forced religious conversion may pose a danger to national security and impinge on the religious freedom of citizens, the top court had said recently and asked the Centre to step in and make sincere efforts to tackle the "very serious" issue.

The court had warned a "very difficult situation" will emerge if proselytisation through deception, allurements and intimidation is not stopped.

Earlier, the Gujarat government had told the top court that freedom of religion does not include the right to convert others, and requested the top court to vacate a high court stay on the provision of a state law that mandates prior permission of the district magistrate for conversion through marriage.

The top court had on September 23 sought responses from the Centre and others to the plea.

Upadhyay submitted in his plea that forced religious conversion is a nationwide problem which needs to be tackled immediately. "The injury caused to the citizens is extremely large because there is not even one district which is free of religious conversion by 'hook and crook'," the plea submitted.

"Incidents are reported every week throughout the country where conversion is done by intimidating, threatening, deceptively luring through gifts and monetary benefits and also by using black magic, superstition, miracles but Centre and States have not taken stringent steps to stop this menace," said the plea filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The plea has also sought directions to the Law Commission of India to prepare a report as well as a Bill to control religious conversion by intimidation and through monetary benefits.

Digitisation of services...

their needs", Dr. Mehta observed.

While interacting with visiting officer Udhampur district (Principal Secretary, School Education Department), Alok Kumar, the Chief Secretary asked him to involve the local public as well as municipal council representatives for the completion of prestigious Devika project. He further asked him to take action against officers as well as contractors who are hampering the execution of this project.

Similarly, interacting with visiting officer for Jammu district Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, the Chief Secretary asked him to keep complete tab on all the ongoing works in the district so that the Jammu City is made one of the cleanest and vibrant cities of the country. He highlighted that Jammu city has lot of potential as tourist destination and we must channelize our resources to make it one of the finest attractions in the country.

The Chief Secretary further asked the visiting officers of Jammu district to involve all wards of Jammu Municipal Corporation into the celebrations of MTMP besides educational institutions, in order to generate awareness among public about beneficiary oriented schemes.

Likewise, interacting with visiting officer Ramban district (Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment), Sanjeev Verma, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the officer to involve locals and other public representatives for developing Ramban as a tourist place owing to its significance due to NH-44. He asked the officers to make it such an attraction that people stay there purposefully.

Dr. Mehta while delving on different aspects of MTMP, impressed upon the officers to saturate the different beneficiary oriented schemes among the public besides young generation should be made aware about different self-employment schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswani, among others.

During the interaction, the Chief Secretary also held deliberations with visiting officers of Khour, Bishnah, Bhaderwah, Bhakshi Nagar, Bari Brahmana, and other municipal wards and councils of Jammu division.

Srinagar records season's...

Kashmir recorded minus 2.7 degrees Celsius, the officials added.

The MeT Office said the weather is likely to stay dry but hazy till December 8. A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining areas from December 9, under the influence of which there is a possibility of light snow over plains and lower reaches, and light-to-moderate snow over the middle and higher reaches over the next two days.

My heart says Article 370 will be restored: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Monday said his party has mounted a legal challenge to the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 and he believed that the special status to Jammu and Kashmir will be restored.

Referring to the criticism of his party by other mainstream political parties in the Valley, Abdullah said the NC is not keeping people in the dark over the issue of Article 370.

"How are we keeping the people in the dark? We are only saying that we will peacefully fight for its restoration. We will fight for

it under the ambit of the Constitution, and legally as well," he said.

The former J and K chief minister said such people wanted the party to vitiate the atmosphere "so that they get an excuse to target us more".

He said NC has mounted a legal challenge to the Centre's decision of August 5, 2019, when it ended the special status of J and K under Article 370 of the Constitution.

"But, we will not lose our calm, we will fight it the right way and God willing, and this is what my heart says, we will succeed in this fight," Abdullah said, receiving thunderous applause from

the party delegates.

He was addressing the party's delegate session where his father, Farooq Abdullah, was re-elected unopposed as the NC president.

Telling his partymen that there was no need to worry, the NC vice president said, "We will not kneel or beg but seek the rights of the people of J-K".

"We will not beg them for security or a bungalow, nor a vehicle or something else. We are only seeking the dignity of J-K, its prosperity, and its identity. God willing, the day is not far when we will succeed in this fight as well and then present ourselves before the people," he added.

MTMP witnesses overwhelming response in Udhampur; Alok Kumar visits district as Prabhari officer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The urban outreach programme My Town My Pride (MTMP) today witnessed overwhelming public response in the Udhampur Municipal Council and two other Municipal Committees of District here.

Principal Secretary, Education Department, Alok Kumar who is the visiting officer for MC, Udhampur visited the district and participated in MTMP there.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna; visiting officers, Rajinder Singh Tara and Sargun Sharma;

Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr Vinod Kumar; Vice president MC, Udhampur, Surinder Singh Khalsa; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Syed Khan; CEO MC, Dalip Abrol; Urban Local Body members, Representatives of Chamber of Commerce and Beopar Mandal and other officers besides Social activists/NGOs, SHG members, Senior citizens, among others.

During the visit, the Principal Secretary held extensive interactions with Urban Local Body members, Social activists/NGOs, SHGs, Senior citizens at Town Hall Udhampur and also inspected various stalls established by the different departments for

awareness of the public.

The ULB members and local people of Udhampur town during the interaction projected several issues and demands being faced by them like unscheduled power cuts, implementation of Udhampur master plan, parking facility, establishment of housing colonies, replacement of damaged water supply pipes in various wards, augmentation of drinking water supply in Udhampur town, renovation of water springs , establishment of Multipurpose hall/ development of parking places in Udhampur town, among others before the officer.

After giving patient hearing to the problems and demands of the ULB members and general public, Principal Secretary assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned quarters for early solution.

Alok Kumar asked the elected representatives of Municipal Council that basic principle of the local elected bodies is to self-sustain and resolving the local issues. He advised them to work with zeal and passion and generate local resources for becoming self-reliant. He said that the main purpose of conducting this programme is to see the impact of government schemes on ground.

The Principal Secretary also

highlighted the objective of My Town My Pride saying that this grand public campaign is aimed at reaching out to the people for redressal of their grievances and addressing developmental issues.

The Principal Secretary also distributed golden cards under Ayushman Bharat scheme, Mamta kits under BBBP, handed over keys under Mumkin Scheme, Sports kits under Khelo India and sanction letters among the beneficiaries.

Later, Principal Secretary visited Saheed Inspector Kamal Singh Government Model Higher Secondary School Boys Udhampur. He also unfurled the National Tricolour and interacted with the students.

While addressing the students, the Principal Secretary exhorted upon the students to play one or the other game to keep themselves physically and mentally fit. He said that drug menace is a big challenge to be dealt with and interest in games and sports is the best way to check this menace.

The Principal Secretary urged upon the students to spread awareness about the drug abuse and illicit trafficking in their surroundings to make the society healthy. Various sports competitions like Kabbadi, Yoga, among others were also organized in the school premises.

CRIME REPORT

20 injured as bus carrying Baratis turned turtle



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: At least 20 persons, who were part of a marriage ceremony, were injured in a road accident at Rajouri district on Monday morning.

As per details, the accident took place when a bus, carrying 'Baratis' turned turtle near Tarkundi LoC road. As per an official, least 20 persons were injured in the accident and they were immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal visited Government Medical College Rajouri to inquire about the condition of the persons injured in a accident. Amarjit Singh, Principal GMC; Mohd Arief, President MC Rajouri; Dr. Mehmood Bajar, MS DH; Mohd Rafi, AD Planning; and other officers also accompanied the DC during his visit.

As per Tehsildar Manjakote at least 20 persons were injured after a bus in which they were traveling turned turtle at Paryali, in Nyaka Panjgrain of Tehsil Manjakote.

"Of the 20 injured, 16 were referred to GMC Rajouri for specialised treatment, while four were treated at Army Hospital Manjakote," he added.

Interacting with the injured, the Deputy Commissioner asked about their well being and instructed the medical team to provide best possible treatment for early recovery of the injured persons.

In addition, he promised that the district administration would provide the injured and their families with all the help necessary during these trying times. To expeditiously pay the compensation to the accident victims, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer was instructed to process the cases under the Jammu and Kashmir Road Accident Victims Fund and submit the same at the earliest.

Man consumes poison, dies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A man died after he consumed poison in his house at Udhampur on Monday.

As per details, Ram Bhajan, son of Krishan Lal, resident of Uttar Pradesh, presently staying at Udhampur, consumed poison in his house and was shifted to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead. Police is investigating the matter.

Man dies in accident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man died in an accident at Samba on Monday.

According to information, Shakeen Mohammad, son of Arshad Ali, resident of Nadin, got hit by an unknown vehicle about a month ago when he was on his bike and got injured. He was admitted to hospital for treatment, but he died during treatment. Police has registered a case in this context.

Missing man found dead after 3 days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: People held a protest by blocking road in Palma area, 8 Km from Rajouri, on Monday after body of a person missing from his house was found after three days. Irked family members said that he was murdered, so the matter should be thoroughly investigated and accused should be caught and put behind bars as soon as possible.

According to information, Sukhdev Sharma, age 65 years, son of Lal Chand, resident of Palma Ward-7, was missing from house for last 3 days. The family members and local people searched everywhere for him but of no avail. Yesterday, a complaint was lodged at police station in Rajouri after which police started searching for him. As Sukhdev Sharma was an ex-serviceman,