

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 27 Issue 236 • Jammu • Saturday • August 27, 2022 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.00



Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24 Dr Jitendra calls for linking StartUps with MSMEs

Is it fair to demand reservations on basis of religion only when there is no such provision in COI?

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

JKPS Kunjwani celebrates birthday of Chairman with gaiety

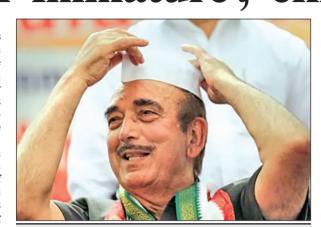
Azad quits Congress, calls Rahul 'immature', 'childish'

NEW DELHI: Congres leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday ended his five-decade association with the party, terming it comprehensively destroyed and lashing out at Rahul Gandhi for demolishing its entire consultative mechanism.

The Congress, dealing with the fallout of a series of high profile exits, including that of Kapil Sibal and Ashwani Kumar, attempted to deflect the latest blow by alleging that Azad's DNA had been "Modi-fied" and linking his resignation to the end of his Rajya Sabha tenure.

Laying bare the many schisms in the party, Azad wrote a five-page no holds barred letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, describing her as a nominal figurehead and alleging that all important decisions are being taken by Rahul Gandhi or rather worse his security guards and PAs".

Azad, whose resignation



8 J&K Cong leaders resign in support of Azad

JAMMU: Hours after former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad quit the Congress, eight senior party leaders including three former ministers resigned the party's primary membership, with sources indicating they may form a new party soon.

More leaders, perceived to be close to Azad, are contemplating to resign, the sources said.

Former ministers R S Chib, G M Saroori and Abdul Rashid; former MLAs Mohammad Amin Bhat, Gulzar Ahmad Wani and Choudhary Mohammad Akram; former MLC Naresh Gupta and party leader Salman Nizami have resigned in Azad's support, sources said. "Over the years as a member of the Congress Party, it has been my sincere endeavour to work for the betterment of my State - Jammu CONTD ON PAGE 9 party, including its primary membership, comes ahead of crucial organisational elections, accused the leadership of committing a giant fraud" on the party in the name of "farce and sham" internal

He said no such exercise had taken place at any level and lists are being prepared by the coterie that runs the AICC.

In his scathing criticism of the leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, the 73-yearold termed the former Congress chief a "non-serious individual at the helm". Proxies, Azad wrote to Sonia Gandhi, are being propped to take over the leadership and they will be nothing more than "a puppet on a string".

Azad has been almost a constant in the party's decision-making processes through the decades -- the Sanjay Gandhi days and the tumultuous Emergency

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Congress now sunken ship: Raina

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit Ravinder Raina claimed on Friday that Ghulam Nabi Azad was forced to resign from the Congress as he was insulted and harassed in the party, which is a sunken ship now.

Azad resigned from all party positions on Friday ahead of the organisational describing

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Azad's resignation body blow to Cong: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

 ${\bf SRINAGAR:}$ National Conference leader Omar Abdullah Friday on described Ghulam Nabi Azad's resignation from the Congress as a body blow to the party, saying it was "sad" and "scary" to see the grand old party implode.

"Long rumoured to be in the offing but a body blow to the Congress none the less. Perhaps the senior most leader to quit the

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New generation surveillance equipment used to foil infiltration bid in Uri: Army

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: New generation surveillance equipment, including aerial and groundbased sensors, and weapons were used to track and neutralise three terrorists during an anti-infiltration operation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector on Thursday, the Army has said.

Talking to reporters in north Kashmir's Baramulla, General Commanding of the Army's 19 Infantry Division Major General Ajay Chandpuri said the operation was launched



GOC of Army's 19 Infantry Division Major General Ajay Chandpuri briefing media on Friday.

following credible inputs Police and the Army's own from various sources, including the military intelligence, the Jammu and Kashmir

sources on the ground. "We have foiled an infiltration

SIA files chargesheet against accused in terror-funding case

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet in a special court here against an accused in a case related to terror funding, an official said.

Hammad Farooq, a resident of Nowshera locality in Srinagar, had developed links with terrorists through social media and received funds through hawala using bank channels from Saudia Arabia and Oman, a spokesper-

He said the chargesheet against Farooq was filed before the court of special judge designated under the NIA Act.

The spokesperson said a case under relevant sections of law was lodged at police station CIK (SIA) Kashmir last year following some credible inputs about hawala money being pumped in from the Gulf countries.

"The investigation conducted has revealed that Farooq had developed links with terror-■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amit Shah holds meeting with J&K BJP leaders

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah on Friday held a meeting with the party's core group members from Jammu and Kashmir here.

Sources said organisational issues and the political situation in the Union territory were discussed in the meet-

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and other senior party leaders, including Union minister Jitendra Singh, Devendra Singh Rana, MP Jugal Kishore and Shakti Raj Parihar, attended the meet-

NIA special courts in Anantnag, Baramulla directed to expedite cases STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday directed NIA special courts in Anantnag and Baramulla to expedite and take up the cases on priority.

It transferred all civil, sessions trial cases -- except rape cases -- and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases from designated

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2 earthquakes jolt J&K in 40 minutes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two earthquakes of 3.4 and 2.8 magnitudes hit Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

While the 3.4 magnitude quake hit Katra belt in Reasi district, the other hit Doda

However, there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, the

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Temperature (Srinagar)

Min: 18.7°C

Max: 90 Min: 84 Sunset: 19:05 Hours Sunrise: 06:03 Hours

Max: 26.0°C

general secretary Tarun Chugh, who is in charge of the party's affairs in the Union territory, and co-incharge Ashish Sood,

also attended the meeting. The meeting came on a day senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who hails from Jammu and Kashmir, quit the party.

However, BJP sources added the leaders' meeting with Shah was pre-sched-

BJP leaders said the political situation and the party's organisational affairs following the delimitation exercise

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI:

The Union Ministry for

Rural Development on

Friday approved Pradhan

Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

1276 KMs costing Rs 1357

Cr for the Union Territory of

Manoj Sinha has expressed

gratitude to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Hon'ble

Union Minister for Rural

Terming the approval for

PMGSY-III as yet another

milestone in the rural con-

Development, Giriraj Singh.

Governor

(PMGSY)-Phase-III

Lieutenant

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ACB nabs XEn PWD red handed while accepting bribe of Rs 15,000

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has nabbed one Farooq Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Special Sub Division Gurez, Bandipora for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 15,000 from a complainant.

As per an official spokesperson, the sleuths of ACB received a complaint against one Farooq Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Special Sub Division, Gurez regarding demand of bribe of Rs. 15,000 from complainant as commission for releasing

connectivity of UT: LG

payments etc. The complainant further stated that he and his father are jointly in contract business and participated in a tendering process. His father was awarded contract for construction of work viz construction of five room Govt Primary school building at Dassi-B Bagtore Gurez shifted to Izmarg Gurez vide allotment dated 10.11.2017 and agreement dated 11 of 2018, the official said. "After completing the work, some payments were vet to be released by department. However, for releasing the final pay-

It will provide all-weather

road connectivity to uncon-

nected Habitations for sus-

growth, the Lt Governor fur-

Pertinently, under the

Sadak Yojana (PMGSY),

and inclusive

Mantri Gram

ments Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Special Sub Division, Gurez namely Faroog Ahmad demanded Rs 15000 as commission for releasing payments. Accordingly, complainant approached the ACB and requested for taking necessary legal action against accused. On receipt of complaint, prima facie offences section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) were made out against alleged accused and FIR No. 25/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Another milestone in rural

Safeena Baig elected Chairperson of J&K Hajj Committee STATÉ TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Revenue, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday presided over the meeting of newly appointed members of J&K Hajj Committee at Hajj House Bemina here.

All the members recently appointed by Government participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the election to the post of Chairperson of Haj Committee was also conducted in terms of provision of 4 of J&K Haj Committee Rules 2013. In the election, Safeena

Baramulla under section 7 of PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) against accused. After that, a trap team headed by DySP rank officer and independent witnesses, caught the accused red handed while demanding & accepting bribe of Rs 15,000 from complainant at Gurez," he informed, adding that accused was arrested on spot after completing all legal formalities. Searches were also conducted at residence of the accused, the official said, adding that further investigations are going on.

awarded to 2 narco smugglers STATE TIMES NEWS a parallel fuel tank attached UDHAMPUR: Principal on the other side of the truck. The accused were arrested

14 years rigorous imprisonment

District and Sessions Judge Udhampur Y.P Bourney has convicted two accused in NDPS Act case registered $_{
m FIR}$ 313/2014 with Police Station Udhampur. According to the case histo-

ry, on Aug 14, 2014, a team of Police station Udhampur, during duty, intercepted a truck bearing registration number PB09S /7297 near Jakhani on Jammu Srinagar National Highway. During checking, the police team recovered 100 polythene bags of Poppy straw weighing 98 kilograms from

and contraband items were seized. On this, case FIR Number 313/2014 U/S 8/15 (C)

NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Udhampur and investigation started. During the trial, the Court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Udhampur has found sufficient evidence connecting the accused with the crime.

After hearing Public Prosecutor Koshal Kotwal for the State and the counsel for the accused person,

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Don't burden utilities, pay for freebies from budgets: FM the utilities in parts or not

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said political parties that come to power on pre-poll promises of freebies should pay for those through budgetary provisions.

Citing the example of free electricity being promised in many states, the finance minister said the burden for the freebies should not be thrust upon the power discoms or gencos.

"If a promise has been made to the people at the time of the election, you are

You should be, as a responsible party, assume after you come to power, make a provi-

sion in the budget for it,"

Sitharaman said, speaking at

the FE Best Bank Awards

She said in the case of the

event here.

"You end up shifting the burden to the discom which has not gone to the election. The discom has not asked for votes. Why should they be burdened? Do they have the power to stop continuing the sup-

cos." she said.

"The debate is not about what constitutes a freebie, but if you have given a promise, provision for it," she added. The remarks come amid a heated debate on the subject of freebies,

ply? And similarly the gen-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Jammu and Kashmir is among best performing Centre approves PMGSY-III for 1276 KMs

Governor said that the modern rural infrastructure, enhanced connectivity will nectivity of J&K, the Lt improve rural economy and

costing Rs 1357 Cr for J&K States/UTs in the country. With the mission of ensuring Safety, Connectivity,

ther added.

Pradhan

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power sector, there have been looking at a quid pro quo. cases where states have paid



JAMMU: Notwithstanding 'blow hot blow cold' reactions by the unnerved Congress brigade, Ghulam Nabi Azad's resignation is a big jolt, rather tremor. to the grand old party that is at the brink of dismemberment in India's Amrit Kaal post independence. From the so-called top leader to the ordinary func-

tionary-everyone is using choicest invectives against Azad with a common phraseology that the Congress gave everything to the former stalwart, who, according to them, had otherwise no identity of his own, inferring that he was just a 'Ghulam', which is why media is blowing up the hash-tag 'Ghulam Nahi Azad'.

For the Congressmen, the Congress means Gandhis and therefore each of their factorums actually imply to convey in their reactions that whatever Azad got, it was only due to Gandhis. This speaks of the slavery mentality of the so-called leadership which revolves around the Gandhis, which is why self-respecting politicians have no other recourse but to call it a day, even if having stayed in the party more than half of their age.

Congress has seen exodus of towering leaders like Capt Amrinder Singh, Kapil Sibal, Jyotiradhitya Scindia, Anand Sharma, Ashwani Kumar, RPN Singh, Jitin Prasad, Sunil Jakhar, Hardik Patel, Sushmita Dev and many others in recent months but Azad's departure is a rude shock to the party. In his exit, the Congress has lost a matured strategist and a veteran leader, who enjoyed respect beyond party lines.

Ghulam Nabi Azad has put to rest all the speculations about joining the BJP, after indicating formation of a new party. These speculations were rooted in the huge praise showered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the floor of Parliaments when he retired as Member of Rajya Sabha and Leader of Opposition. Modi had become very emotional with his voice choking. This was not to lure him into the BJP but to acknowledge his contribution in nation building. This is a real asset for a politician.

Azad will be remembered as a great loyalist, who enjoyed a lot of respect and esteem in his home 'state'in all the then three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. But for the 'grand betrayal' by the Peoples' Democratic Party in 2008, he could not accomplish his mission of holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir. He will be remembered for his initiatives like IITs, AIIMS, Tulip Garden, promotion to tourism and Super Specialities. Enjoying goodwill among the people, Azad's departure will see a trail of exits of his lov-

alists in the Union Territory. The process has begun and it will certainly change the political equations in Jammu and Kashmir. While the BJP is likely to repeat-and even improve-- its 2014 performance in the Legislative Assembly, the new party being floated by Ghulam Nabi Azad can emerge as a major factor in the government formation in case of the hung assembly. He will spoil all the poll prospectus of the Congress in most of the seats in Doda-Bhaderwah-Ramban belt. His new party will prove a death knell for the Congress in the Valley as also in the Jammu region, as most of its towering leaders are his 'time tested' and trusted lieutenants or disciples. Will Azad play a king-makers role that he has been doing during his decades' long political career in the Congress across the country? The PAGD is at the brink of collapse; the other outfits like Sajjad Lone's Peoples' Conference and Altaf Bukhari's Apni Party will lose their sheen with Azad's party emerging on the J&K scene. The arch-rivals turned friends -National Conference and the PDP-by all indications can again be seen 'face to face', given the feelers from Junior Abdullah, much to dislike of Senior Abdullah. The political turf in the Valley will see another player-a major one of course-in the form of

The fast changing political equations, post Azad's exit

from the Congress, may also expedite the holding of democratic exercise in the Union Territory. This being the scenario at his home turf, the man from Bhalesa is tackling the Congress' word-war with immense degree of maturity. Maintaining his grace and cool, like even before, he did not decry the Congress but he spoke in length about the humiliation being meted out by the senior leaders by Rahul Gandhi. He has not minced words in pouring out his hurt by blaming Rahul's "childish behaviour" for "demolishing the consultative mechanism" within the party. He also slammed the 'remote control model" and said that while Sonia Gandhi was the interim president, "all important decisions were being taken by Rahul Gandhi or rather worse his security guards and PAs." He describes Sonia Gandhi a nominal figurehead and says that senior leaders were attacked, vilified and humiliated. He observes that Rahul Gandhi has destroyed the consultative mechanism in the Congress, adding that a non-serious individual has been at the helm of the party. He also observed that the Congress lost because of Rahul's "childish behavior." He sees the Congress election process a sham and advises his ex-party to go for Congress Jodo before Bharat Jodo, while referring to the proposed Bharat Jodo Yatra of the fast dwindling old party of India.

Ghulam Nabi Azad gives jolt to Congress

