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Modi to lead...

Jammu and Kashmir Ram Madhav, party National General Secretary incharge Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, Rajya Sabha member Ghulam Ali Khatana, General secretary (organization) Ashok Kaul and Jammu and Kashmir B-JP vice president Sofi Yousuf.

3 of family missing...

the affected people. The officials said the cloudburst took place around 2.30 pm, causing flash floods in Tanager and Dadi streams.

Naseema Begum (42), her son Yasir Ahmad (16) and six-year-old daughter were reported missing from their house which was damaged in the flash floods at Kumait hala in Rajgarh tehsil, District Development Council member Mohd Shafi Zargar said. He said the search operation to locate the missing family members was on. At least two government middle schools at Gadgram and Sonsua and a couple of other structures also suffered damages, while three parked private vehicles were washed away, he said.

Ladakh gets five...

is committed to creating abundant opportunities for the people of Ladakh. Ladakh was made a UT after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs on August 5, 2019. The other UT is Jammu and Kashmir. On that day five years ago, the Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state, was also abrogated. Being a UT, Ladakh comes under the direct administrative control of the union home ministry.

Omar may do...

pressure on me and I do not want to give a wrong signal to the people," he said. Abdullah asked the media persons to give him a day or two. "You will get to know when the party releases the list."

Before the announcement of the polls, the NC leader had vowed not to contest elections for the UT assembly as he had headed a state assembly as chief minister in a unified J&K that included Ladakh.

However, there are speculation that Abdullah might contest from his family bastion of Ganderbal in central Kashmir from where he had won the 2008 assembly polls.

On Sunday, at a joining function in Ganderbal, Abdullah was requested by party leaders to reconsider his decision of not contesting the polls. They also suggested he could contest from Ganderbal.

However, on Monday the NC vice president said, "I am talking with my colleagues about this."

Asked about the NC-Congress alliance and the announcement of a "friendly contest" on five seats between the alliance partners in J-K, Abdullah said those five seats were difficult for both the parties to leave for the alliance.

"Three seats are those which were difficult for us to leave and two seats are those which were difficult for Congress to take a decision on. So, we decided that both the parties will field their candidates on those five," he said.

The NC leader also said the alliance faced another problem during the negotiations as the CPI(M) wanted to fielded a candidate from Devsar constituency as well.

"We would have had problems in Kulgam (which the alliance has allotted to CPI(M)'s M Y Tarigami) and we thought we have to fight a friendly contest there as well. But, Farooq Abdullah talked to Tarigami and requested him that there shouldn't be any candidate from Devsar and he has accepted. So, we have left Kulgam seat for Tarigami," he added.

Asked if there was any issue between the alliance partners over the NC's manifesto, Abdullah said there was none.

"None whatsoever. Let me be categorical, at no point in time did the Congress party raise any objections to our manifesto," he said.

In the initial stages of the discussions, at the local level, the Congress had asked whether they should have a common minimum programme, he said.

"We told them very clearly that a CMP (common minimum programme) is always arrived at after you receive a verdict from the people, after you win election and, therefore, obviously we are fighting this election to win. If the NC and the Congress receive the support of the people, then we will form a CMP for the governance for next five years," Abdullah said.

He said the NC has neither discussed its manifesto with the Congress nor has it asked its alliance partner what they are going to include in their manifesto.

To a question about the BJP's criticism of the NC's manifesto, Abdullah said the BJP is expected to say such things.

"Do you think the BJP will put its stamp on our manifesto? The BJP should see inwards."

"Today, what their situation was, I have seen it for the first time that the BJP deleted a (mandate) list within ten minutes of issuing it. Today, chairs were broken in their office. The BJP should set its own house in order," he said.

Asked why the PDP is not a part of the alliance, he said it was the Congress' decision to make.

"The Congress is the biggest partner in the INDIA bloc and it found convenient to talk to us. How can I force them to talk to someone else? They did not mention the PDP and so the issue was put to an end there," he said.

On the Centre's decision to create five districts in Ladakh, Abdullah said he congratulates the people there.

"However, we will have to see what is the ratio that they have applied. We have always tried to give equal to both Kargil and Leh.

"But, if they have created five districts, then somewhere there will be some discord. So, we will have to see where the injustice has been done," he added.

SC directs states...

have not yet filed their responses. The bench noted that states and UTs like Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have not yet submitted the qualitative/quantitative charts

despite circulation of a questionnaire seeking information in respect of the status and functioning of open correctional institutions and whether such institutions exist within their jurisdiction.

"We, therefore, direct that all the States/Union Territories, which have not yet filed their response, to file a complete response within a period of four weeks from today," the bench said in its order passed on August 20.

It said the states and UTs, which have not given complete information, shall also ensure compliance within four weeks.

"We further clarify that if any of the state governments or Union Territories do not respond in terms of the orders passed by this court, we will be compelled to direct the presence of the chief secretary of the states/Union Territories concerned before this court," the bench said and posted the matter for further consideration after four weeks.

The apex court noted that on July 15, it had directed the chief secretaries of various states and UTs to submit their responses on the issue of open jails.

The amicus told the bench that states and UTs of Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Ladakh, have not filed their responses yet.

While hearing the matter on May 9, the apex court had observed that establishing open jails can be one of the solutions to overcrowding and also addressing the issue of rehabilitation of prisoners.

In its May 17 order, the bench had noted the submission of the amicus that a model draft manual has been prepared by the Union of India where the nomenclature 'open correctional institutions' is used for such facilities.

I also want...

people. It is sadly now, the government of the freebooters, concessionists, exploiters and history sheeters for their type of people. The common man continues to be perplexed and confused about what to do and what not to do.

Gone are the days when a candidate needed experience, a solid platform, or supporters. Now those trying their luck and forcing their entry into the political arena are armed with a selfie stick, a slogan and Chamechagiri.

Till very recent past, those desirous of running for public office used to be a select few with a history of public service, sincerity, dedication and enjoying confidence of the people. Their strength used to be public trust and not the Facebook posts or a few clips on media portals or newspapers. They used to speak a full sentence and not to fumble on public platforms.

These days everybody wants to jump into the political ring and dance like a circus joker. Astonishingly they are getting recognition as well from the 'political stalwarts', maybe because the people with sense are shying away to join

the mad race for elections.

NC, Congress finalise...

contesting, as well as the names of the candidates, will be issued later. The NC president said the alliance is up for a fight against the powers "who are dividing the people not just in this state, but across the country."

"The INDIA bloc was made with an aim to fight those forces who are trying to create a communal divide in the country. Today, I am happy that the negotiations (over the alliance) have been concluded. They took place in a cordial atmosphere," Abdullah said.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, said the two parties are aiming to protect the "soul" of J-K and the country.

"The BJP is trying to destroy the soul of J-K. Our INDIA alliance aims to save the soul of J-K. That is why the Congress and NC are coming together to form a government in J-K which is totally friendly with the people of J-K," he said.

Venugopal also said the BJP has no moral right to criticise the NC manifesto, as it had earlier done.

"BJP had an alliance with NC earlier, they also had an alliance with the PDP. The same old NC is still NC and the same old PDP is still PDP. They had alliances with both the parties with the same programme," he said.

"Every political party has their programme, manifesto and promises. We have our own promises and manifesto. When we will form the government, there will be a common minimum programme," he added.

The politician said the people of J-K have been "cheated" by the BJP.

"We have never seen a state being downgraded to a UT. That is why the people want a B-JP-free government in J-K. People are suffering because of their divisive agenda and policies, unemployment. Their only agenda is to divide the people. "We believe in unity, in the progress of the people, employment of the youth," the Congress general secretary said.

NC issues first...

It also named Peerzada Feroze Ahmad from Devsa, Chowdary Zaffer Ahmad from Larmoo, Abdul Majeed Larmi from Anantnag West, Bashir Ahmad Veeeri from Bijbehara, Reyaz Ahmad Khan from Anantnag East and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo from Pahalgam. All these seats are in south Kashmir.

For the seats in Jammu region, the NC announced Mehboob Iqbal from Bhaderwah, Khalid Najeeb Soharwardy from Doda, Arjun Singh Raju from Ramban, Sajad Shaheen from Banihal, former minister Sajad Kichloo from Kishtwar and Pooja Thokur from Pader-Nagsani.

APSCC outfit to...

said the committee is banking on the support of majority community for the success of its candidates.

He appealed to the members of the majority community to come forward and support the members of the Sikh community.

Raina said support from members of majority community will ensure victory of community members.

He said it will send a positive message from Kashmir and it will change the narrative that Kashmiris pursue separatism and are anti-national.

Polls to the 90-member J-K assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1, while results will be announced on October 4.

PM Modi's vision...

creation of these districts will not only strengthen local governance but also empower local communities to actively participate in the decision-making processes, he added. Chugh said this initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of regional development and inclusivity, as seen in other recent projects across the country. The establishment of these districts is a testament to the government's commitment to balanced regional growth and the upliftment of all communities, he said.

J&K ELECTIONS: BJP...

success of our candidates," he said. "Our mission is the victory of our party... there are many types of discussions and issues within a party. The last date for filing nominations for the first phase is August 27 and so the list of 16 candidates was released," he added.

"I sincerely respect each and every BJP worker. I will personally meet each worker who has come to the BJP office. Please share your thoughts with me, and I will listen to you. We are all members of one family, and we work with selfless intent, with spirit of national service, and with 'nation first' mindset," Ravinder Raina said.

Earlier, BJP chief spokesperson Sunil Sethi said party leaders and workers are united and will work tirelessly for the success of all candidates.

"There is no heartburn or confusion. We should not make any presumptions and wait for the fresh lists," he said.

So far, 14 candidates have filed their nomination papers for the first phase of elections which will cover 24 assembly segments -- 16 in Kashmir and eight in Jammu. The last date for filing nominations is August 27.

The process of filing nominations for the second and third phases will begin from August 29 and September 5 respectively.

The BJP's Central Election Committee had met on Sunday evening to finalise the candidates for the polls.

The second and third phases of elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be held on September 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 4.

In the last assembly elections held in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014, when it was a full-fledged state, the BJP had won 25 seats. The party is making all-out efforts to fend off the challenge from a resurgent Congress, which has tied up with the National Conference, especially in the Jammu region, a B-JP bastion since 2014.

Four persons detained...

for questioning. Security forces are on high alert across Jammu and Kashmir following increased terrorist activities and the Assembly elections scheduled to begin on September 18.

Centre cuts public...

of the government approach" while redressing the grievances. "This means that in no case grievance shall be closed by stating 'Does not pertain to this Ministry/Department/ Office' or its equivalent language. Efforts shall be made to transfer the same to the right authority if the subject of the grievance does not pertain to the receiving Ministry," said the order issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). In the ministries/departments where a large number of public grievances are received, it is advised to appoint a dedicated nodal officer with independent charge on sufficient rank so as to ensure timely and qualitative disposal of public grievances, it said.

The order mentioning revised guidelines was issued following the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi given during his interaction with the secretaries to the government of India on June 29.

Following the directives, DARPG undertook a review of existing processes to make Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System or CPGRAMS -- an online portal that allows people to raise complaints against government departments -- "more sensitive, accessible and meaningful to the citizen".

"The 10 steps reforms initiated in CPGRAMS have significantly brought down the average resolution time. Keeping this in view, the maximum redressal time advised by DARPG for cases in CPGRAMS is further reduced to 21 days," said the order dated August 23, 2024.

In cases, where the redressal requires longer time, an interim reply may be given stating the reason for the same and expected timeline when the grievance could be resolved, it said.

"The focus of the guidelines has been to reduce timelines of grievance redressal to 21 days and improve quality of grievance redressal by adopting technology improvements like integration of grievance portals, root cause analysis using AI enabled dashboards and assessment matrix like the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index," said V Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG.

He said capacity building of grievance redressal officers is envisaged through the state administrative training institutions.

Srinivas, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Rajasthan cadre, said the policy guidelines were formulated after detailed consultations with Ministries/Departments, States/ UT governments, knowledge partners and state administrative training institutes.

"The policy guidelines also empower citizens by providing an escalatory appeal mechanism," he told PTI. Appeal workflow in CPGRAMS presently requires appointment of an officer of the Additional/Joint Secretary rank as the Nodal Appellate Authority (NAA).

2 bootleggers arrested, 224 bottles of illicit liquor seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/RAMBAN: Police party of Police Station Miran Sahib during Vehicle Checking below the fly-over bridge, near Ring road, Miran Sahib one car bearing Registration No. JKO2BJ- 8325 was stopped for Checking & on Checking, three cartons containing 150 bottles of liquor were seized from the possession of Prithpal Singh, son of Jagat Singh, resident of Simbal morh Basti Govindpura, Miran Sahab, Jammu. Upon this, a case FIR No. 85/2024 U/S 48 (a) Excise Act has been registered and investigation is going on.

Intensifying its drive against the sale of illicit liquor, launched on the directions of Senior Superintending of Police Ramban, Sh. Kulbir Singh JKPS the police have arrested a bootlegger and recovered 74 bottles of illicit alcohol from his possession in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramban.

The arrested person has been identified as Ranjeet Singh, son of Jia Lal, a resident of Gandhri, Ramban.

A police party from Police Station Ramban, led by SHO PS Ramban Insp Vijay Kotwal, arrested the bootlegger while on patrolling.

The accused was found illegally selling liquor, and 74 bottles of illicit liquor were recovered from his possession. An FIR No. 202/2024, pursuant to Section 48(a) of the Excise Act, has been registered at Police Station Ramban, and the investigation of case ongoing.

Narco smuggler nabbed with 8.5 grams of heroin

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substances abuse under Operation Sanjeevani, R.S.Pura Police achieved major success by recovering 8.5 grams of heroin like substance from one drug peddler in the area under the jurisdiction of PS R.S Pura.

A Police team of PS R.S.Pura led by SHO PS R.S Pura assisted by Police officials on 25.08.2024 while on routine patrolling, established a Kotli Gala Bana, Near Brick Kiln and rounded up a suspected person, later identified as Kamaljeet Singh alias Abhi, son of Rattan Lal alias Pidlu R/o Old Agra Chak Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu. During search, 8.5 grams of heroin like substance got recovered from his possession. In this regard, case FIR No. 185/2024 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered at PS R.S Pura and accused got arrested. It is pertinent to mention here that the father of the accused person is a history sheeter of police station R.S Pura and who is also involved in many heinous cases as well as NDPS Act cases.



Drug peddler held with Charas

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: In a decisive move against narcotics smuggling, the Ramban police, under Operation Sanjeevani and the astute guidance of SSP Ramban Shri Kulbir Singh JKPS, successfully foiled a narcotics smuggling attempt in the Faithly area of Ramban district.

During a routine patrol near the Maitra Ramban area, the police team of PS Ramban intercepted an Eco vehicle bearing registration number No JK-19-A 5719. The vehicle, traveling from Faithly towards Ramban, was stopped for a routine check. The driver, identified as Mohd Shafi, son of Abdul Rashid, a resident of Faithly, Ramban, was found to be in possession of approximately 150-160 grams of a substance resembling charas.

The swift action by the police led to the immediate seizure of the contraband and the vehicle. The suspect, Mohd Shafi, has been taken into custody for further investigation.

A case under FIR No. 199/2024 under relevant Sections of NDPS Act has been registered at PS Ramban, and the investigation is ongoing. Further investigation is underway to uncover any networks or connections associated with this illegal activity.

17 bovines rescued, smuggler arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, District Police Udhampur have foiled one more bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police post Tikri, rescued 17 bovines and seized vehicle.

A Police team of Police Post Tikri headed by IC PP Tikri PSI Manveer Singh while performing routine vehicle checking duty at naka point Tikri, intercepted one vehicle (Truck) bearing registration No. JK20B-8416 for checking purpose. During checking of the vehicle, 17 bovines were found laden inside which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. Accused has been arrested and all the rescued bovines have been shifted to a safer place.

In this regards, A case FIR No. 187/2024 U/S 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Rehambal and further investigation is in progress.

Two burglars arrested, stolen items recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a continued effort to crack down on criminal activities, the Jammu Police have successfully solved a burglary case in the Kanachak area. The case, registered under FIR number 129/2024 at Police Station Kanachak, has led to the arrest of two individuals involved in the crime.

The arrested individuals have been identified as 1.Sagar Kumar, son of Pawan Kumar and Jeet Lal, son of Gopal Dass; both are residents of Garhi, Tehsil Jammu North, District Jammu. During the investigation, the police recovered stolen items based on the disclosures made by the accused.

The recovered items include 1 Air Conditioner; 1 LED Television. Further investigation of the case is in progress.

Army destroys landmine found near LoC

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: An Army patrol destroyed a rusted landmine in a controlled explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said on Friday. The landmine was found adjacent to the border fence in the Bahoi area of the Mankote sector on Thursday, they said.

The officials said experts were summoned and the landmine was destroyed.

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines, which sometimes get washed away by rains and also result in accidental blasts, the officials said.

PM Modi briefs US President Joe Biden on his visit to Ukraine

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a phone conversation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday briefed US President Joe Biden on his visit to Ukraine and reiterated India's full support for the early return of peace and stability in the eastern European country.

The two leaders also discussed the ongoing situation in Bangladesh and stressed the need for early restoration of normalcy and ensuring the safety and security of minorities, especially Hindus.

"We had a detailed exchange of views on various regional and global issues, including the situation in Ukraine. I reiterated India's full support for early return



of peace and stability," Modi said on X.

"We also discussed the situation in Bangladesh and stressed on the need for early restoration of normalcy, and ensuring the safety and security of minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh," he said.

An official readout said Modi briefed Biden on his recent visit to Ukraine.

In the phone conversation, Prime Minister Modi and Biden reiterated their commitment to further strengthen multilateral cooperation, including in Quad.

PM Modi and President Biden highlighted that the India-US partnership is aimed at benefiting the people of both countries as well as the entire humanity, the statement said.