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J&K registers 14.5...

education is being ensured in every school through various reforms and the dream of universal education is being realized through community participation. "It is not about only going to any school but a good school. In order to achieve this goal, quality education is being ensured across the schools in UT and it is one of the paramount goals for us. The government is also determined for effective implementation of other interventions," the Lt Governor further added. Emphasis is given on building cognitive abilities of students, better learning transactions using toy based learning, experiential and competency based learning. Under "Each One Teach One" campaign, primary and upper primary students are teaching their neo-literate family members so that they could become literates and a module and material has already been developed and distributed by Samagra Shiksha among the beneficiaries.

Fight for justice...

move ahead on the path of development and prosperity together," Azad said during his over hour-long speech. He said the majority of the Congress leaders have left the party voluntarily in his support. "All the leaders who are present (on the dias) have not asked me before sending their resignations (to the party leadership). They submitted their resignation and then informed me about it," Azad said, adding "95 percent former Congress ministers, 95 percent legislators, 99 percent District and Block Development council members from every nook and corner" are present here. Prominent among those present included former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, former ministers G M Saroori, Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, Taj Mohiuddin, R S Chhib, Abdul Majid Wani, Manohar Lal Sharma and Gharu Ram. Former legislators Balwan Singh, Mohd Amin Bhat, Jugal Kishore, Haji Abdul Rashid, Choudhary Mohd Akram, Subhash Gupta, and Gulzar Ahmad Wani also attended the rally besides Narinder Sharma, Vinod Mishra, Vinod Sharma, PDP's Syed Bashir and Apni Party's Shoaib Lone. "This is just a beginning, let us see what happens next," Azad said. Without naming Bukhari, he said two former ministers and three MLAs left to join hands with him to form the Apni party two years ago. "We neither talked about them nor the party but he (Bukhari) made a comment which shows his frustration."

Bukhari on Friday said Azad, the former Rajya Sabha MP, might have defected Article 370 in Parliament and "even tore his shirt but let me tell the truth that Azad sahab voted for the abrogation of Article 370". "My speech in Parliament (on abrogation of Article 370) is on record. I was in Parliament otherwise I too would have been jailed like other chief ministers but still I made two attempts to visit Srinagar and Jammu. "I mobilised opposition leaders including Rahul Gandhi who accepted my request but again we were not allowed. I did not kept mum, knocked the door of Supreme Court which allowed me to visit Jammu, Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla I reported everything to the apex court," Azad said. "If anyone says I have done nothing, he should tell the people what he had done, other than trying to mislead the public." He said he is in Jammu and Kashmir for the next fortnight and will spend four days in Jammu to meet various delegations from Monday before moving to Doda, Inderwal and Kishtwar in the Chenab valley and then to Kashmir. Launching a veiled attack on Congress leaders, Azad said he gave sweat and blood for the party unlike those who are spreading "falsehood" through social media. Azad, however, was all praise for National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and said he displayed statesmanship while making a comment on his exit from the grand old party. "The people who want to defame me have their reach only on Twitter or computer, propagating falsehood through SMS, which is the main reason why Congress has vanished from the ground," Azad said in an apparent reference to Congress leaders. "I am not like the one who is sitting at his home in Delhi and spreading falsehood. I was always linked to the ground and have spent time at the homes of panches and sarpanches (during campaigning)," the veteran leader said without naming any Congress leader. Referring to the arrest of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1977, Azad said he led around 5,000 youth Congress activists to protest against it and was jailed for several months because he refused to come out on bond. "Today, I am seeing Congress workers contacting the director general of police and police commissioners on the phone before going to jail and seeking release within an hour. This is one of the reasons Congress is not moving forward, he said. Azad said he had sympathy for the Congress leadership because the party was not formed on computer and Twitter and propagating "falsehood against us through SMS". "The Congress was strong because of our sweat and blood." "I pray to Allah that let them have their tweet and kingdom while keeping us among the people," he said amid thunderous applause from his supporters who came from different parts of Jammu including far flung areas to hear him. Thanking people for supporting his decision, Azad said if he reads all the messages of support he has received, then he has to spend a year in a cave. The former chief minister said he rendered his services to the Congress for 53 years, holding various positions including that of Union minister and chief minister of J-K. "The love I have received today is my power. Today I am nobody but you have resigned from Congress and other parties in my support to strengthen my hands. It is impossible to go through all the messages but I want to thank everyone in J-K, Ladakh and different parts of the country who supported my decision," he said. Hailing NC leader Farooq Abdullah for his remarks on his exit from the Congress, he said, "Abdullah is a political rival and we enjoyed a love-hate relationship with each other over the decades. Maybe, we fight (elections) against each other but the leader is the one who is not frightened of a fight."

"He showed statesmanship by praising my decision. In a democracy, everyone has a right to form a party, join a party of his choice," Azad said. Meanwhile, a group of people led by Asha Chandan welcomed Ghulam Nabi Azad- Former CM J&K at Jammu Airport. They assured full support in favour of

Ghulam Nabi Azad in near future, moreover full Co-operation in next steps/political affairs.

SPELLS OUT AGENDA...

Kashmir's statehood, protection of land and jobs for its residents and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, he said. "We have not yet decided the name of the new party and its flag...I am not going to issue any diktat sitting in Delhi. The people and leaders of both Kashmir and Jammu will be taken on board to finalise the name and the flag, Azad said, seeking support of all sections of society for the party. He said the name of the new party will be easy to utter. However, he said, the agenda of his party has been decided and asked people to support him in achieving the target to take Jammu and Kashmir. He said full statehood means that there is a governor and not the Lt Governor and the assembly should be powerful enough to enact laws. "Outsiders should not buy land, either in Jammu or Kashmir, and jobs should not be given to them... How many jobs are available in Jammu and Kashmir? It is a trickle of water in a sea and if the jobs are advertised at the national level, we will lose that trickle of water as well, he said. He lauded the last Dogra ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, for his vision of introducing land and job safeguards in 1925-30 and said, "Indian Constitution and J&K constitution safeguarded this law for 72 years. So this was not unconstitutional." From presidents to prime Ministers, both from Congress and other parties, accepted this constitutional safeguard which was adopted by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and therefore who are we to say that it is wrong, he said. "Under my chief ministership, I requested the then prime minister Manmohan Singh and provided residential quarters to 20,000 Kashmiri Pandits at Jagti township in Jammu besides several other places. The process continued under the chief ministership of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed but my heart pains when we see that 6,000 jobs under the prime minister's special package sanctioned during my tenure are yet to be completed. I have myself advertised 3,000 such posts, Azad said. Referring to the recent targeted killings by terrorists in the valley, he said, "Such killings should stop forthwith and anyone willing to return should be provided security and accommodation. We do not want anyone to be forced to return to the valley." He said his party would work to ensure honour, dignity, respect and integrity of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and start confidence-building together. Expressing concerns over growing unemployment, he said, "I have a plan for the creation of job opportunities. We have a treasure trove of mountains which could be tapped to generate employment by attracting tourists. "Bangus valley (in north Kashmir) is equal to a hundred Gulmarg (the famous hill resort). I, as chief minister, started road construction work to link the valley but unfortunately the road is still incomplete, he said, adding Tosamaidan in central Kashmir and waterfalls in south Kashmir's Anantnag, Kathua, Udhampur and Gool-Gulabgarh in Jammu region have the potential to attract lakhs of tourists. He said his party would work for equitable development of both the regions, providing homes to 2.50 lakh homeless in Jammu, development of sports infrastructure at district level, IT parks and promotion of healthcare.

UGC to launch..

Rs 50,000 per month as part of the fellowship and Rs 50,000 per annum as contingency. The 'Research Grant for In-Service Faculty Members' seeks to provide research opportunities to regularly appointed faculty members. The quantum of support under the scheme is Rs 10 lakh which will be provided to 200 selected candidates for a tenure of two years. The 'Dr DS Kothari Research Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty Members' will provide research opportunities to regularly appointed faculty members. The quantum of support under the scheme is Rs 10 lakh which will be provided to 132 selected candidates for a tenure of two years. The 'Dr Radhakrishnan UGC Post-Doctoral Fellowship' will offer an opportunity to carry out advanced studies and research in Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences including languages in Indian universities and institutions. This fellowship has 900 seats and 30 per cent of them are reserved for women candidates. The selected candidates will be given Rs 50,000 per month as part of the fellowship and Rs 50,000 per annum as contingency.

Kashmiri carpets to...

of immense happiness. This art of ours the hand-made carpets was famous the world over. But, unfortunately, there has been a decline due to many reasons. Now, we hope it gets revived and this project helps in that, he said. The carpets to adorn the new Parliament building will be 11 feet long and up to 8 feet wide. They will be laid in a circular formation. The width of each carpet is not the same. It varies, it starts with less width and goes on to become bigger. But the minimum is four feet, Khan said. The carpets are unique and the three designs have been incorporated from the traditional Kashmiri Kan'i shawl designs, he said. Fifty weavers are working on the project and 12 families are associated with it right from supplying raw material, designing, weaving, etc, he said. Khan said over 90 per cent of the project work has been completed and the rest will take about another 20 days. The designing of the carpets took about three months and then the actual work started. We hope to finish this month. We have already supplied nine carpets to the company. After we make the carpets, they are washed and some other fine touches are given to them before they can be used, he said. The process of Kashmiri carpet making is an arduous one. There are many phases- beginning with acquiring and preparing the raw materials, then treating and dyeing them, and finishing with weaving and adding the finishing touches. Khan expressed hope the project will go a long way in creating awareness about Kashmir's rich cultural heritage and giving the much-needed impetus to the art. Those associated with the carpet weaving would usually get Rs 150-225 a day for their hard work. With this project, the 50 weavers working on it get about Rs 600 to 700 a day, he said.

He said they were now hoping to receive more orders, which will eventually boost the traditional art. Kashmiri artisans and carpet merchants are eager for these carpets to be placed at India's highest constitutional building so that people across the world would appreciate the skill of Kashmiri handicraft workers. Parvaiz Ahmad, a weaver, while appreciating the employment generated by the project, expressed hope that the weavers will get more work and their due after the project is completed. We hope to get more such projects and better payments. This has helped us a lot in managing our day-to-day lives better, he said. The origin of hand-knotted carpets locally known as "Kal baffi" dates back to the 15th century after which it progressively attained a high degree of perfection. It is said that Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin brought carpet weavers from Persia and Central Asia to Kashmir to train local inhabitants. The loom used in Kashmir carpet weaving is composed of two horizontal wooden beams and between them, the threads are stretched, one beam in front of the weaver and the second behind the first. Designs and patterns in Kashmir carpets continue to be predominantly inspired by classical Persian and Central-Asian rugs.

1,200 youth shortlisted..

enthusiasm in this step of getting connected with youth through the Department. The Director Employment, Nisar Ahmad Wani informed the gathering that such Job fairs will be replicated in all the districts of UT of J&K. Pertinently, during the fair, 1200 youth were shortlisted/registered by private companies, 15 youth were handed over offer letters on spot and 150 youth were selected for training in hotel management after which they will be recruited in the same field. During the fair, Help desks and Registration counters were also established by the Employment Department where more than 1000 on spot registrations were done.

Heavy rains in...

and Kathua 42.0 mm of rainfall over the past 24 hours ending 8.30 am Sunday, the officials said. Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, witnessed 14 mm of rainfall. The weather office has forecast more rainfall at many places across the Union Territory in the next 48 hours with possibility of heavy showers at a few places in the Jammu region.

CJI recalls lawyers'..

Kumar Chamarti gave the vote of thanks. Justice Lalit took oath as the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI) last week and will hold office till November 8.

Cyrus Mistry killed ...

of police, Balasaheb Patil. According to initial information, the Mercedes Benz car, with Anahita Pandole at the wheel, was over speeding and tried to overtake another vehicle from the wrong side, a police official told PTI. A woman was driving the car and tried to overtake another vehicle from left side, but lost control and crashed into the road divider, an eyewitness said, corroborating the official about the possible reason for the accident. Mistry and Jahangir were on the rear seats, the official said. Darius and Anahita have been shifted to a private hospital in Gujarat's Vapi for further treatment, said Palghar district superintendent of police, Balasaheb Patil. The police officer said the bodies of Mistry and Jahangir Pandole have been shifted to the Kasa Rural Hospital for postmortem. Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the home portfolio, has asked police to conduct a detailed investigation. Cyrus' death has come as a second big blow to the influential family within a few months as his father Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry, also called the 'Phantom of Bombay House for subtle but substantial influence he wielded at the Tata Group headquarters, had died in June. The sudden death of Mistry, the first person outside the Tata pedigree to occupy the top position in the group, plunged the country's business and political class into grief, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling it a "big loss to the world of commerce and industry". "The untimely demise of Shri Cyrus Mistry is shocking. He was a promising business leader who believed in India's economic prowess," Prime Minister Modi said in a tweet while offering condolences to his family and friends. "Saddened by the tragic news of the demise of former chairman of Tata Sons, Cyrus Mistry. He was amongst the brightest business minds of the country, who made a significant contribution to India's growth story. My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and admirers," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi wrote on Twitter. Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, the second person outside the Tata family to occupy the top position in the group, condoled the death of Mistry, a man who, he said, had a passion for life. "I am deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely demise of Mr Cyrus Mistry. He had a passion for life and it is really tragic that he passed away at such a young age," Chandrasekaran said in a statement.

India lodged over...

of suicide deaths in 2019 was 1.39 lakh, in 2018 it was 1.34 lakh, in 2017 it was 1.29 lakh before it spike over 1.50 lakh-mark in 2020 and 2021. According to the NCRB, it has been compiling suicide deaths data since 1967 when the country had reported 38,829 such fatalities in the calendar year. It was in 1984 that the number of suicide deaths crossed the 50,000-mark for the first time in the country and it crossed the 75,000-mark in 1991, the official figures from corresponding time period showed. However, it was in 1998 that the number of suicide deaths crossed the 1 lakh-mark as 1.04 lakh such fatalities were recorded that year, the figures showed. There are various causes of suicides like professional or career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders, addiction to alcohol, financial loss, chronic pain etc, the NCRB said in its annual report for 2021. The NCRB also said that it collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases.

Tributes paid to martyr Pawan Kumar



SSP Samba Dr. Abhishek Mahajan paying tributes to martyr Police Constable Pawan Kumar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS While BDC chairman SAMBA: Tributes were paid to martyr Pawan Kumar on his 19th martyrdom day on Sunday. On 4 September 2004, Pawan Kumar attained martyrdom while fighting with the terrorists in the Dhaggar area of Bani in Kathua district. The 19th Martyrdom Day of Jammu and Kashmir Police Constable Shaheed Pawan Kumar was celebrated at his memorial located in his native village Jasath. On the occasion, SSP Samba Dr. Abhishek Mahajan, DAR DySP Ajay Anand paid tributes to martyr Pawan Kumar and remembered him. While BDC chairman Vijay Tagotra, Senior BJP Leader Rashpal Verma, Mahila Morcha District President Geeta Bhagat and the martyr's Mother Krishna Devi, Brother Ramesh Chander, Rakesh Kumar, Raman Kumar and other family members also paid tributes. BDC Chairman Rajpura Radha Krishan Sharma, Mandal President Kulbhushan Singh, Sarpanch Rajpura Suresh Basotra, Sarpanch Sanoora Davinder Singh Kaka, Ex- MLA Durga dass, Retired ZEO Chandu Lal Bhau, Rampal Sharma, Rajesh Jasrotia along with Panchayat members were also present.

CRIME REPORT Temple theft case solved, accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS ARNIA: Police on Sunday solved a theft case at temple by arresting the accused. As per the details, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Arnria by one person namely Rohit Singh, son of Charan Singh, resident of Powal, Arnria Jammu about the theft 700/800 rupees in Shiv Mandir (Dhanpatru) at Powal, Arnria. On the receipt of this information, FIR No. 89/2022 under sections 380/457 IPC was registered and investigation taken. After this, a team of Police Station Arnria under the overall supervision of SP HQRS Ramnish Gupta led by SDPO R.S Pura Surinder Singh, SHO Police Station Arnria Inspr Sumeet Sharma assisted by PSI Mohd Ilyas did strenuous efforts and with the help of CCTV footages of the area finally rounded up a suspect namely Pawan Kumar alias Jony, son of Sham Lal Jogi, resident of Alah, Arnria, Distt. Jammu. During questioning accused confessed his involvement in the above case and theft money recovered from his possession.



Two missing persons traced, reunited with families ■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Police on Sunday traced two missing persons and reunited with their families. As per the details, a complaint was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar regarding a boy who got missing from his home. In this regard, missing report on August 20, 2022 was registered and investigation got started. On this, a police

team under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma led by SHO Police Station Gandhi Nagar Inspr Pankaj Sharma did strenuous efforts and finally traced the missing boy namely Anil Kumar, son of Sham Lal, resident of H.No.779 Sec.05 Nanak Nagar Jammu. Similarly, another complaint was lodged at Police Station Miran Sahib by one person namely Tarsem Lal, son of Krishan Lal, resident of Malikpur stating that his son namely Pankaj Kumar was missing from his home. In this regard a missing report on September 3, 2022 was registered and investigation started. On this, a police team under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Surinder Singh led by SHO Police Station Miran Sahib Inspr Zaheer Mushtaq did strenuous efforts and with the help of technical assistance and CCTV footage of the area finally traced the missing boy within 24 hours of his missing. Subsequently families of the missing persons were informed and the traced persons were handed over to their respective family members after completing all the legal formalities.

Police raids Lau Gujar's house

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Bishnah Police has once again raided the hideout of Lau Gujar on Sunday, but he was not found on the spot. The police searched the area for a long time. According to the information, the police team has been engaged for several days to arrest Lau Gujar. But he is not getting caught. He had fled during a raid on his hideout a few days back. Since then, a full eye has been kept on him by the police. The police had also received information on Sunday that he had come to his house. After which the police raided. But he was not found on the spot. His house was closed. There was no family member. A person was found on the spot who used to look after the goods and cattle. The police are trying their best to arrest him. Because many cases are registered against him. Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin ■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, police on Sunday nabbed a narco smuggler and recovered 21.54 grams of heroin from Satwari area. As per the details, a team of Police Station Satwari consti-

tuted under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma and led by SHO Satwari Insp Sameer Jeelani assisted by In-Charge Police Post Chatha SI Ranjit Singh Chhib while on patrolling duty rounded up one suspect, who was walking on road in a suspicious manner and tried to escape after seeing the police party, but was apprehended due to swift action of police. During search, 21.54 grams of heroin was recovered from his possession.

The accused identified as Bikramjeet Singh alias Vicki, son of Ujagar Singh, resident of Ward No. 01 Bhour Camp was arrested and FIR No. 163/2022 under sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Satwari. The whole operation was done under the supervision of SP South Mantta Sharma.

Biker nabbed with 16 Kg poppy straw

■ STATE TIMES NEWS RAMBAN: Police on Sunday nabbed a biker and recovered 16 kg poppy straw from his possession. As per the details, a party of Police Station Ramban headed by ASI Ramesh Kumar while Naka checking intercepted a hero deluxe motoreycle (PB 20 C 2415) driven by Balkar Singh, son of Raj Jaspal Singh, resident of Ward No 12, Balachaur, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab who was coming from Kashmir towards Jammu. During the checking of the motoreycle, police recovered 16 kg of poppy straw like substance from the grey colour bag covered by dark blue colour cloth. The accused was arrested and FIR No. 306/2022 under section 8/15 NDPS Act was registered against him in Police Station Ramban and investigation is entrusted to PSI Simran Pal and the investigation is set into motion. The overall recovery was carried out by police party headed by Insp Sandeep Charak under the supervision of Pardeep Singh Sen DySP Hqrs Ramban with the overall supervision of SP Ramban, Mohita Shama.

