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Abdullah sowed seeds...

new era has come up in J&K following which there has been a steep decline in terrorism. The youth have given up stones and have taken up computers and technology to grow and get into the national mainstream," he added.

Chugh said that under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi there has been a significant decline in terrorism, the restoration of peace, and the focus on development which J&K never saw under the Abdullahs and Muftis.

"It is time for Dr. Abdullah to stop playing divisive politics and introspect on bringing prosperity to Jammu & Kashmir", he added.

He said the times of Article 370 promoted terrorism and encouraged separatist elements to grow, leading to decades of bloodshed and instability. By removing this article, the government has eliminated a key tool that was being exploited to fuel terrorism, he maintained.

ACB arrests NT...

abatement by Patwari Pardeep Kumar, who took the complainant to NT without preparing any report and asked him to do what the Naib Tehsildar is asking for before report and documents are prepared.

Accordingly on the basis of findings and recommendations of the Enquiry Officer, a case FIR No. 12/2024 under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (read with its amendment Act 2018) was registered on September 14, 2024 in P/S ACB Baramulla against Altaf Hussain Khan, Naib Tehsildar Uri District Baramulla for demanding bribe and under Section 12 of PC Act 1988 against Pardeep Kumar, Patwari for abatement and investigation was set into motion.

During investigation, a trap team headed by Dy.SP rank officer was constituted at PS ACB Baramulla. The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed the accused while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 50,000/- from complainant. Accordingly, after completing all legal formalities the accused was arrested on the spot .

According to the statement, it was also found that the said Naib Tehsildar was recently booked by the ACB Baramulla in case FIR No 08/2024 with other officials of the Revenue Department for abuse of official position and insertions in the revenue record etc, which is also under investigation.

The accused was presented before the court of Spl Judge Anti Corruption Court Baramulla and remanded for 10 days police custody.

Further investigation of the instant case is going on. The role of Patwari and Sarpanch is being looked into.

Will resign as...

The AAP national convener, who reached the party headquarters here on Sunday along with his wife Sunita to address party workers, said he would become chief minister and Manish Sisodia deputy CM "only when people say we are honest".

Sisodia got bail in the excise policy case last month.

Following Kejriwal's unexpected announcement, the names of his wife Sunita and Delhi Ministers Atishi and Gopal Rai as his probable replacement are doing the rounds.

"I am going to resign after two days and ask people whether I am honest. Till they respond, I won't sit on CM's chair," Kejriwal said.

"Delhi elections are due in February but I demand that the elections in the national capital be held in November along with Maharashtra... I will only sit on CM's chair after people give me a certificate of honesty. Want to give 'agnipariksha' (trial by fire) after coming out of jail."

Alleging the BJP tried to prove him corrupt, Kejriwal claimed the saffron party could not provide good schools and free electricity to people because they were corrupt. "We are honest," he asserted.

"They slap false cases against non-BJP chief ministers. If the CMs are arrested, I urge them not to resign but run their government from jail," the Delhi chief minister said.

"I didn't resign (after arrest in excise policy case) because I respect democracy and the Constitution is supreme for me," Kejriwal said and asserted that it is only the AAP that can stand up to the BJP's "conspiracies".

Slamming Kejriwal over his resignation announcement, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said, "The AAP national convener's announcement is a part of his plan to make his wife Sunita Kejriwal chief minister... Arvind Kejriwal has done a PhD on how to make a virtue out of necessity."

He alleged that Kejriwal is enacting the resignation "drama" because the court did not acquit him in the (excise policy scam) case and instead granted him a conditional bail that turned him into a "ceremonial minister from the chief minister".

While addressing AAP workers, Kejriwal referred to him quitting the chief minister's post in 2014 over the Jan Lokpal Bill, just 49 days after assuming power, and said, "I resigned then for my ideals. I do not have a lust for power."

The excise policy case would drag on for a long time, the chief minister claimed and said he wanted to ask the people of Delhi whether he was honest or guilty.

He asked people to vote in his favour only if they considered him honest. "For me, the BJP is not important, people are important," Kejriwal said.

"Our leaders Satyendar Jain and Amanatullah Khan are still in jail. I hope they come out soon," he told AAP workers as he thanked God "who was with us through difficulties."

About his time in jail, Kejriwal referred to letters written by freedom fighter Bhagat Singh while in British captivity and said, "I wrote only one letter to the Lieutenant Governor from Tihar and was issued a warning."

"Our freedom fighters were allowed meetings with colleagues but my party colleague Sandeep Pathak was not allowed to meet me in jail," he said.

An AAP functionary said that when the chief minister was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21, his wife Sunita Kejriwal played a crucial role in the party's campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana.

"Since she is also a former Indian Revenue Officer, she understands the functioning of government and bureaucracy. There would be no opposition among party leaders if she is appointed chief minister of Delhi," he said.

About Atishi, another party functionary said she has been in charge of 14 departments, the highest among the ministers. She has been playing a crucial role in the functioning of the Delhi government since Kejriwal's arrest.

The name of another minister, Gopal Rai, who is the AAP's Delhi unit president, is also likely to be considered for the chief minister's post in the meeting of party MLAs.

Cong to release...

The Congress' Jammu and Kashmir affairs in charge said a common minimum programme (CMP) would be chalked out by the coalition partners after government formation to ensure peace, prosperity and development in the region.

"The (Congress) manifesto is ready and will be announced within two days before the first phase of elections. Our manifesto will not be based on 'jumlas', and we will ensure its implementation," Solanki told reporters here.

Jammu and Kashmir goes to polls in three phases --

September 18, September 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will take place on October 8.

He said the assembly election in the strategically important Jammu and Kashmir is being watched by the entire nation and the world.

"We have an alliance with NC but we work as per our party's ideology... when we form a government, which is bound to happen, we will chalk out a CMP and ensure implementation of all our promises contained in our manifesto," Solanki said.

The NC and Congress have entered a pre-poll alliance, with the Farooq Abdullah-led party contesting 51 seats and the Congress on 32. The CPI(M) and the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) have each been allocated one seat while both parties are having a "friendly contest" on five seats.

On conceding more seats to NC, Solanki said the welfare of the people is more important for the party than anything else.

"We are more concerned about restoration of statehood, bringing back normalcy, maintaining communal harmony and strengthening the bond between the two regions," he said.

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who joined the BJP's election campaign in Doda on Saturday, he claimed the PM's speech was full of rhetoric, mostly targeted against the main opposition party.

"A day before his (PM's) arrival, two of our soldiers laid down their lives fighting terrorists in adjoining Kishtwar district while a gunfight was underway in Mendhar sector of Poonch district.

"This is happening in the Jammu region which has become vulnerable to terror attacks during the BJP's rule," Solanki said.

Assuring people about the implementation of a special package for Kashmiri Pandits that was announced by the Mamohan Singh-led UPA government, the Congress leader said, "The BJP only exploited their pain and did nothing for them."

Azad vows to...

against communal politics and division based on religion, particularly during the election period and stressed the importance of unity, stating, "We will ensure equal development for everyone, regardless of caste or creed and at this stage in my life, I do not seek wealth. My only desire is to bring relief to the poor and uplift the underprivileged."

Highlighting his commitment to the welfare of all citizens, Azad pointed out, "We provided free ration to the poor, but the present government has reduced the scale."

Azad said, "We had given free land through the Roshni scheme, but the government stopped it. We will restore the Roshni scheme and ensure free ration up to 50 kg for the poor." He committed to significant relief measures, promising that no electricity bill will be charged from the poor. He stressed the need for better infrastructure, stating, "We will ensure road connectivity to all villages, even to the last house on the mountain."

Azad also outlined plans for rapid progress, announcing, "We will introduce double and triple shift work culture to accelerate development." His message was clear: the focus will be on restoring support for the underprivileged and ensuring comprehensive development for all.

Azad voiced deep concerns of the people following the revocation of their rights on August 5, 2019. He pledged to introduce legislation in the assembly that will prevent outsiders from buying land or securing jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We will safeguard the rights of the people and ensure that their land and jobs remain protected," he said. He also expressed grave concern over the rising issue of drug abuse among the youth. "Our young generation is getting involved in drugs, and we must act swiftly to stop this menace," he said.

Azad vowed to create new job opportunities to steer the youth towards a brighter and more productive future.

Will Congress split...

never attempted to get a similar amendment incorporated in the then J&K Constitution because of its inherent appeasement politics. This is just one of the hundreds of such instances of suppressing Hindus in their own land. Perhaps these gross 'atrocities' on Hindus was a motivating factor for staunch Congressmen like Himanta Biswa Sharma to say goodbye to the party of Nehru-Gandhi family. As Chief Minister of a sensitive state like Assam, he has now begun the course correction in the fast changing demography of his state. This is an eye-opener for Nehru-Gandhi lackeys in the Congress, who still prefer to behave like ostriches. However, the silver lining is that realization is fast dawning on the Congressmen. The Himachal minister's revolt over the mosque issue has bolstered the Congressmen with some sort of self-pride as Hindus. They are witnessing how the unity among Hindus can melt down the wrong doers to start demolition of the illegal construction in the mosque. The Congress whistleblower minister's Hindu unity effort has sent shockwaves in the party leadership. They can see writing on the wall with Sanatanism, irrespective of upper caste and lower caste, uniting for a cause. Is this the beginning of balkanization of the Congress? Can Rahul Gandhi keep his flock of 99 together, given his party's Hindu bashing mindset? End.

Assembly polls: J-K politicians pip Haryana's in seeking permissions for rallies, venues

NEW DELHI: Politicians in Jammu and Kashmir have sought and received around four times more permissions for organising rallies and booking meeting venues than their counterparts in Haryana, official data shows.

While assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir are being held in three phases beginning September 18, in Haryana the democratic exercise will take place in a single phase on October 5.

According to data available with offices of chief electoral officers of Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana, over 3,100 permissions for rally grounds and halls have been granted so far in the Union territory via the Election Commission's Suvidha application.

In Haryana, the number of permissions stand at over 850, according to latest data available on the Suvidha application.

During their review visit to Jammu and Kashmir on September 11 and 12, EC officials have told the UT administration that no last-minute restrictions would be imposed on the number of participants allowed in rallies or meetings.

The administration was also instructed that permission should be granted for political gatherings with due diligence and without any bias or without any undue interference. The application caters to permissions for organising rallies, booking venues, opening temporary party offices, door-to-door canvassing, video vans, use of helicopters and helipads, obtaining vehicle permits and distributing pamphlets. A total of 458 candidates are in fray across 50 seats in phase 1 and phase 2 of assembly polls in the UT. This includes 219 candidates across 24 seats in phase 1 and 239 candidates across 26 constituencies in Phase 2.

Pulwama and Anantnag, which are considered hotbeds of militancy, have also seen higher enthusiasm and participation with 45 candidates contesting from Pulwama, which is an increase of 45 per cent from the 2014 assembly polls, while 64 candidates are contesting from Anantnag as compared to 54 in 2014, officials said citing data.

Census to be conducted soon; no decision yet on caste census: Sources

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government has started preparations for conducting the decadal census, but a decision is yet to be taken on including a column on caste as part of the exercise, sources said on Sunday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one source said that the decadal census will be conducted soon.

India has conducted the census every 10 years since 1881.

The first phase of this decade's census was expected to begin on April 1, 2020 but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, enacted by Parliament last year, too is linked to the conduct of the decadal census.

The law reserving one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is

undertaken based on the relevant figures of the first census recorded after the Act has come into force.

"This is yet to be decided," the source said when asked about inclusion of a column on caste in the decadal census.

The political parties have been making vociferous demands for conducting a caste census.

In the absence of fresh data, the government agencies are still formulating policies and allocating subsidies based on the data of the 2011 census.

The house listing phase of the census and the exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR) were scheduled to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020 but it was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The entire census and the NPR exercise is likely to cost

the government more than Rs 12,000 crore, the officials said.

This exercise, whenever it happens, will be the first digital census giving the citizens an opportunity to self-enumerate. The NPR has been made compulsory for the citizens, who want to exercise the right to fill the census form on their own rather than through government enumerators.

For this, the census authority has designed a self-enumeration portal, which is yet to be launched.

During self-enumeration, Aadhaar or mobile number will be mandatorily collected.

The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner had prepared 31 questions to be asked. Those questions include whether a family has a telephone, internet connection, mobile or smartphone, bicycle, scooter or motorcycle or moped, whether they own a

car, jeep or a van.

The citizens will also be asked what is the cereal they consume in the household, main source of drinking water, main source of lighting, access to toilet, type of toilet, waste water outlet, availability of bathing facility, availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection, main fuel used for cooking, availability of radio, transistor, television. The citizens will also be asked about the predominant material of the floor, wall and roof of the house, condition of the house, total number of persons normally residing in the household, whether the head of the household is a woman, whether the head of the household belongs to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household, number of married couple(s) living in the household among others.

The police have taken swift action, registering FIRs and arresting individuals involved in the illicit activities. Further investigations are underway to identify and apprehend other accused persons.

Massive seizures, cannabis destruction conducted in Poonch district

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a major crackdown on electoral malpractices, the District Election Authorities (DEA), under the aegis of Vikas Kundal, District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, has made significant seizures of cash, drugs, liquor, and kerosene across the district Poonch.

These measures are part of the ECI's rigorous efforts to curb illegal methods used to influence voters during the ongoing Assembly elections.

Additionally, the district police have carried out a large-scale destruction drive targeting cannabis plantations, marking another crucial step toward ensuring a free and fair electoral process.

During the operations, the DEA seized Rs. 2, 82,090 in cash, 12.28 grams of heroin worth Rs. 90,000, 261 bottles of liquor valued at Rs. 80,000, and 380 liters of kerosene and raw material worth Rs. 35,000.

In a separate operation, the Poonch District Police, in collaboration with Flying Squads (FSTs), conducted a destruction drive of cannabis plants at 43 locations in Surankote, Poonch, and Mendhar, resulting in the eradication of 342 kilograms of cannabis, valued at Rs. 23.4 lakhs.

Election Expenditure Observer for Poonch, Bharat Ramchandra Andhale, praised the proactive role of the police and election officials in curbing electoral fraud and ensuring transparency.

Furthermore, strict vigilance is being maintained across the district to detect and prevent any attempts to use illegal means to sway voters.

With heightened monitoring of suspicious activities and swift action from law enforcement agencies, the goal remains to conduct free, fair, and impartial elections in Poonch, ensuring the public's faith in the democratic process is upheld.

Consequent to the seizures and destruction drives, the Poonch District Police have registered cases under relevant sections of the law, including the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Excise Act, and other applicable statutes.

Narco smuggler arrested, 17 grams heroin recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Continuing its fight against the narcotic smugglers, Poonch Police today arrested one more Narco smuggler and has recovered Heroin like Substance weighing about 17 gms from his possession in the jurisdiction of Police Station Poonch.

A party of Police Station Poonch under supervision of SHO Kunal Singh during routine vehicle checking near Mini Secretariat Poonch, intercepted a three wheeler Auto bearing registration No. JK12B/5783 for its checking. During checking, Heroin Like Substance weighing about 17 gms having value of approximately 119000 INR recovered from the personal possession of the driver of the Auto.

The accused has been identified as Mohd Majid, son of Akbar Din, resident of Qazi Mohra, Poonch has been arrested and the contraband item alongwith Auto has also been seized.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 168/2024 U/S 8/20/21 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Poonch and further investigation is taken up.

DMO Reasi intensifies fight against illegal mining

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: District Mining Officer (DMO) Reasi Er. Mohd Imtiaz has seized two hydraulic excavators and one tipper from Sungri Nallah, under the jurisdiction of Chassama Police Station, as part of its sustained campaign against illegal mining.

This daring nighttime raid marks a first for any DMO in this area, underscoring its unwavering dedication to curbing unlawful mining activities and setting a new benchmark for enforcement.

BJP's Panchayati Raj Cell holds conference

STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: Under the leadership of Surjeet Chaudhary, State Convener of BJP's Panchayati Raj Cell, and Sardar Gurdeep Singh Saini, Co-Convener, a one-day conference was held with significant participation from party members.

The event was attended by senior BJP leaders, including Union Minister and Jammu and Kashmir Election In-Charge G. Kishan Reddy, Rakesh Mahajan, In-Charge of all BJP Cells, former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, District President Sunil Dutt Shastri, BJP candidate for Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency Prof Garu Ram Bhagat, District Development Council members Dharmendra Kumar and Surekha Kumari, and hundreds of BJP workers.

During the conference, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy addressed the gathering, emphasizing that the BJP is contesting the upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir with the goal of forming a govern-



BJP leaders during the conference at R S Pura.

ment. He highlighted the significance of these elections, marking a decade since the last assembly elections, and noted the contrasting approaches of the National Conference, PDP, and Congress, who are advocating for the release of terrorists in their manifestos, while the BJP is focused on development issues.

Kavinder Gupta stated that the Congress party's candidate in RS Pura Jammu South is expected to face a fourth consecutive defeat, as the electorate is resolute in their support. He also expressed confidence in the BJP's victory in the Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency.

Professor Garu Ram Bhagat, BJP's candidate for

Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency, emphasized that the elections in Jammu and Kashmir are not just about forming a government but about bringing about change. He asserted that only the BJP can end terrorism in the region and pointed out the benefits that border communities have experienced since the cessation of shelling following the formation of the BJP government.

Rakesh Mahajan, Surjeet Chaudhary, and Gurdeep Singh Saini shared that the conference was organized to raise awareness about the BJP government's policies.

Gurdeep Saini said "Today's conference showcased BJP's commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of the people of

Jammu and Kashmir and highlighted the party's vision for the future of the region. BJP is not merely seeking to form a government; we are dedicated to bringing about significant and positive change for every citizen in the region. Our focus is on building a secure, prosperous, and inclusive Jammu and Kashmir. The benefits of Modi Govt policies, especially in terms of ending terrorism and improving security along our borders, have been clearly visible. We are committed to ensuring that these positive outcomes continue to grow and positively impact the lives of people in border communities and beyond."

He appealed to the people of Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency to support Prof Garu Ram with an aim to continue the spree of development in the border village.

The event was also attended by District President Sunil Dutt Shastri, former Sarpanch Omkar Singh, former Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma, former Corporator Pawan Singh, and Om Prakash Khajuria, among other BJP workers.

HC grants anticipatory bail to Crime Branch Inspector, stays presentation of Challan

STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Justice Rajnesh Oswal of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court granted the absolute bail with conditions to one Amandeep Singh and directed Respondents U.T. police not to present the challan without permission of the court .

The bail petition was filed through Adv. A. K.Sawhney and Adv Aseem Kumar Sawhney advocates. The quashing petition was also filed to quash the FIR registered at police station Qazikund (kashmir) against Sho/ Inspector Amandeep Singh posted who is in ANTF of Crime Branch.

Aseem Sawhney Adv. submitted tnat several of posset straw was seized and petitioner was investigating that case. During investigation some high police official tried to influence the NDPS investigation being conducted by petitiuner in the case asking for not roping the accused which ANTF and

Amandeep Singh refused and it became the matter of prestige, ego superiority and thus registered a false case of extortion against petitioner and later added P.C.Act offences .

Aseem sawhney challenged the basic jurisdiction of the police Qazikund that to register anti corruption case and also its competency to investigate the P.C.ACT case which is the sole jurisdiction of ACB. Aseem sawhney Advocate further argued before the court that it is misuse of the process of law. SHO Qazikund police station was himself roped in Statement made in the said NDPS case. The P.C.Case needs preliminary inquiry and to be investigated by the Gazetted officer. All such illegalities committed with vested interest and on extraneous considerations therefore FIR be quashed being counterblast to save the accused involved in NDPS huge commercial quantities and are close to high police officers who are bent upon to save them urged Adv Sawhney before the court.