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Security beefed up across J&K ahead of Amit Shah's visit today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Security has been beefed up across Kashmir ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's maiden visit to the Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 on Saturday, officials said.

They said a thick security cover has been thrown around the BJP office at Jawahar Nagar in the City where Shah is likely to pay a visit.

Similarly, roads leading to Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) have been made off-limits for three days from Saturday as the Union Home Minister is expected to attend an event there, they added.

It will be Shah's first visit to Kashmir after the Centre revoked J-K's special status and bifurcated the erstwhile state into union territories in August



2019. The officials said additional deployment of security forces has been made across the valley, especially in Srinagar.

Official sources said 50 companies of additional paramilitary forces are being inducted into the valley in the wake of the recent spate of civilian killings.

Bunkers manned by paramilitary CRPF have come up in several areas of the

city as well in other parts of the valley, the officials said. They said the aim of constructing new bunkers and putting more personnel on the ground was to cut the free movement of militants.

The officials said barricades have been put up on the roads across the valley, especially in the city, while frisking and checking of people has been intensified. The mobile internet services on a dozen towers --

mostly in the areas where non-local labourers were killed in the past week -- were snapped three days ago as part of the security measures, they said.

The officials said police have started stringent checking of documents of two-wheelers plying on the roads and many have been seized by police.

However, IGP, Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar had said these steps were purely related to terror violence.

"Seizing some bikes and shutting down of internet of some towers is purely related to #terror #violence. It has nothing to do with visit of the HM," he tweeted on Thursday.

Sources said that the Union Home Minister will address a rally in Jammu, and visit Ladakh UT as well. In Srinagar, he is likely to chair a high level security meet, a source privy to Shah's itinerary told.

J&K sees 108 fresh COVID cases

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded 108 fresh COVID-19 cases that pushed its tally to 3,31,494, officials said.

The death toll remained unchanged at 4,429, they said.

Of the fresh cases, 21 were reported from the Jammu division and 87 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, the officials said. At 47, Srinagar

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Ramban to get Nagarvan soon: Choubey

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Maintaining that India has achieved another milestone in administering COVID-19 vaccine to over 100 crore souls of the country in a record time, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Ashwini Kumar Choubey said on Friday this is achieved with the cooperation of

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Pakistan's atrocities against J&K people exposed to world: LG



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha speaking during a seminar on topic 'Memories of 22 October, 1947' at SKICC.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday said that the atrocities of Pakistan against the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been exposed to the world.

"The wound of Pakistani terror attack is still fresh. October 22 is a reminder of Pakistan's atrocities and will always remain a black day, not just for the people of J&K but for the

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e-inaugurates Jashn-e-Zafraan

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today e-inaugurated the "Jashn-e-Zafraan", Harvesting Saffron, in presence of Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that it is due to farmer-centric policies of the Government that the income of the Saffron farmers in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021 has doubled, a year before the deadline.

He pointed out to the recent data of the National Statistical Survey which shows that after Meghalaya, Punjab, Haryana and Arunachal Pradesh, the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir have the highest monthly income of Rs 18,918, way above the national average of Rs 10,218. The Lt Governor expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister

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Govt issues fresh guidelines to regulate Vaishno Devi pilgrims



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Jammu and Kashmir government has issued fresh guidelines to regulate pilgrims at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

As per the new rules, pilgrims must carry a valid and verifiable RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen Test not older than 72 hours.

It was observed that there is a need to continue with

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CS approves implementation of 'District Good Governance Index' across J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Aimed at to implement SMART Governance and assess the status of governance of various interventions taken by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India and Jammu and Kashmir administration, an exercise was initiated for measuring the status of governance in the districts based on selected indicators and parameters.

In this regard, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, on Friday convened



Chief Secretary, Arun Mehta chairing a virtual meeting.

an online high level meeting with Union Special Secretary, DARPG, V Srinivas.

Director General, J&K IMPARD, Saurabh Bhagat; Director Training, J&K IMPARD, Dr. Reva Sharma;

Director General, Economics and Statistics Department; Director General,

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All regional languages kept in minor subjects category for 1st term exams for classes 10, 12: CBSE

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday clarified that all regional languages have been kept in the category of minor subjects for first term exams for class 10 and 12.

The clarification by the CBSE came following objection by Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi to keeping Punjabi out of the main subjects.

"I firmly oppose the CBSE's authoritarian decision to keep Punjabi out of the main subjects. This is

against the federal spirit of Constitution, violating the right of Punjabi youth to learn their native language. I condemn this biased exclusion of Punjabi," Channi had tweeted.

Responding to his objection, a senior board official said, "As it is known, the CBSE has declared the date sheet of the major subjects of classes 10 and 12 for term I Examinations."

"It is clarified that the classification of subjects has been done purely on administrative ground for the

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Mehbooba sends legal notice to Satya Pal Malik

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Friday sent a legal notice to former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik seeking Rs 10 crore compensation for his alleged "defamatory" remarks against her.

The notice comes days after Malik, who is now the governor of Meghalaya, allegedly said Mehbooba Mufti was a beneficiary of the now-abandoned Roshni scheme which aimed to grant proprietary rights to occupants of state land for charges.

"Although no amount of money can compensate my client for the loss of reputation and good name which has been caused by your aforesaid conduct, yet my client has decided to sue you for compensation," Mehbooba's counsel Anil Sethi wrote in the legal notice.

The notice asked Malik

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SFs defuse 2 suspected box-type IEDs in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Friday detected and defused two suspected box-type improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Poonch district, officials said.

They said the two small boxes were detected in Bhata Durian Forest during a joint search operation by the army and police.

The boxes were suspected to be IEDs and were destroyed in-situ, they said.

This is a third instance of IEDs being detected by troops in J&K since Thursday.

An army patrol Thursday had detected and defused



an IED fitted in the branch of a tree in the forest area of Sawalkot in Ratangir ridge and later defused it.

Before that security forces had defused an IED in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir.

'Non-local' destitute found dead in Anantnag

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A destitute, believed to be a non-local, was found dead in Anantnag district on Friday, police said.

The body was found in Janglatmandi area of the district.

An unidentified DB (dead body) of a destitute surviving on alms collection was found in Anantnag town. Dead body has head injuries, a police spokesperson said through a statement.

So far, no terrorist-angle has emerged, he said.

A case has been registered and investigation started, the spokesperson added.

Armed forces being further integrated at all levels to meet any circumstance: Rajnath Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said efforts are on for ensuring further integration of India's armed forces and related establishments at all levels, aimed at readying the country's military forces for any circumstances in the future.

"As you are aware, we are taking the initiatives for further integration of our armed forces and Defence Ministry, in the days to come, as the follow up process, integration will be ensured in the theatre and in all the levels below it,"



Singh said.

Speaking at a conclave here, he said it will be implemented from procurement to indigenisation, to prioritising capability development, training and logistic support, which will make the armed

forces more capable, efficient and self-reliant.

The Defence Minister said, taking these initiatives forward, the government is making efforts to improve efficiency in security and defence sector related other support establishments; this includes- corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board, efforts to encourage exports in the defence sector; encouraging private sector in defence research, development and manufacturing, and efforts for self-reliance in the defence sector.

"The government's

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Petrol, diesel prices hiked for 3rd straight day

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices on Friday touched an all-time high across the country after rates were hiked for the third consecutive day by 35 paise per litre each.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 106.89 a litre and Rs 112.78 per litre in Mumbai, according to price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 103.63 a litre, while in Delhi, it costs Rs 95.62 per litre.

This is the third consecutive day of the price hike. There was no change in rates on October 18 and 19, prior to which prices were hiked by

35 paise per litre each on four straight days.

While petrol has already hit the Rs 100-a-litre mark or more in all major cities of the country, diesel has touched that level in over a dozen states and is trading towards that mark in places from Srinagar to Chennai.

Diesel costs Rs 99.49 a litre in Srinagar, while it is priced at Rs 99.92 in Chennai. Prices differ from state to state, depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Petrol price has been hiked on 19 occasions since September 28, when a three-week-long hiatus in rate revision ended. In all, prices have gone up by Rs 5.7 a litre.

Diesel rates have

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Successful UPSC aspirants have no right to be allocated cadre, place of service of their choice: SC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A successful civil services aspirant has no right to be allocated a cadre or place of appointment of his choice as a candidate for the All India service he opts for serving anywhere in the country with eyes wide open, the Supreme Court Friday said.

The historic judgement in the Mandal case was also referred to by the apex court to observe that the candidate belonging to the SC/ST or OBC if found suitable by the UPSC for selection on merits under general category, shall be appointed against unreserved vacancies.

The observation of the top court came on the appeal of the Central government

against a verdict of the Kerala High Court which had asked it to grant home cadre Kerala to A Shainamol, a Muslim woman IAS officer who was posted in Himachal Pradesh.

A bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian set aside the verdict of the High Court asking the Centre to grant Kerala cadre to the woman IAS officer.

The bench also held that if a candidate, hailing from reserved Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), or Other Backward Class (OBC) category does not take benefit of quota and gets selected in the general category then later he or she cannot take recourse of

reservation for getting cadre or place of appointment of choice.

The allocation of cadre is not a matter of right. It was held that a selected candidate has a right to be considered for appointment to the IAS but he has no such right to be allocated to a cadre of his choice or his home state. As stated above, allotment of cadre is an incidence of service.

The applicant as a candidate for the All-India Service with eyes wide open has opted to serve anywhere in the country. Once an applicant gets selected to service, the scramble for the home cadre starts...., Justice Gupta, writing the

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Month-long winter session of Parliament likely from 4th week of Nov

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The month-long winter session of Parliament is likely to commence from the fourth week of November following all COVID-19 protocols, Parliamentary sources said on Friday. The session, which is likely to have around 20 sittings, would conclude ahead of Christmas, they said.

In the wake of the pandemic, the Winter session of Parliament was not held last year and all the subsequent sessions -- Budget and Monsoon -- were curtailed due to Covid.

Though, an official decision has not been taken yet, the sources said the session could commence from November 29 and would end around

December 23.

Though, both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will sit simultaneously, the members will follow social distancing norms. In the first few sessions, both the Houses used to meet at separate time to ensure that not many people were present inside the Parliament complex.

In the Winter session, those entering the complex and the main Parliament building will have to wear masks all the time and may have to undergo Covid test.

The Winter session assumes significance as it will be held just months before the assembly elections in five states, including politically-crucial Uttar Pradesh, which is seen as a semi-final for the 2024 general elections.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 35.0°C Min: 25.8°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 31.8°C Min: 16.6°C

Humidity
Max: 74 Min: 36

Sunset: 18:52 Hours
Sunrise: 06:10 Hours