

03 VC JU awarded Prof AK Sharma Memorial Award

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the government would rather hold talks with the youth and "brothers and sisters" of the Valley than Pakistan as suggested by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.

He also said the only intention behind repealing Article 370 was to put Kashmir and Jammu on the path of development, and people will see the "fruits of our efforts by 2024".

The home minister, who arrived in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday for his first visit since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, remotely inaugurated several development projects and laid the foundation stone of some.

Before beginning his 38-minute-long speech at a function here, the home minister got the bullet proof glass shield for the speaker removed.

Later, he told the audience that he likes to have a "mum ki baat" (talk straight from his heart) with the people.

"I was cursed and criticised bitterly and today, I wish to talk to you with an open heart without security and without any bullet proof glass. And, here I am in front of you," Shah said



People welcoming Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a function at Srinagar.

while speaking at a heavily guarded Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

"Friends, today I saw the newspapers where Farooq (Abdullah) Saheb has suggested to me that the government should engage in talks with Pakistan. Well, he is a seasoned politician, who has been the chief minister of (erstwhile) state, and this is his suggestion, but I would like to tell Farooq Saheb that if talks are to be held, I would like to hold it with brothers and sisters of the Kashmir

08 Volleyball camps conclude in Rajouri

repeal of Article 370, tell them how much land has been taken away in your village or area. No land has been snatched in the two years since August 2019."

The article, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated in August 2019 and the state was bifurcated into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Shah inaugurated a 500-bed hospital at Bemina, completed at a cost of Rs 115 crore, laid the foundation stone for the Handwara Medical College, a Rs 46-crore steel girder bridge over the Ferozepur Nallah in Baramulla district and road projects worth Rs 4,000 crore, among others.

The home minister, who is on his Jammu and Kashmir visit's third day, said that those who advocate talks with Islamabad and separatists should be asked what has Pakistan done in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

"Compare the development between this side and PoK. Do they have electricity, roads, healthcare and toilets for women. There is nothing (on the other side). You (Kashmiris) have the same rights as any other

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09 Terrorists lob grenade at PS Kakapora, no injury reported

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Heavy firing was reported from a forest area as a massive search operation to track down hiding terrorists in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri entered the 15th day on Monday, officials said.

It was not immediately clear whether the firing in Bhatti Durrian forest was the result of a fresh contact with the terrorists, believed to be hiding in caves deep inside the forest, the officials said.

Nine Army personnel including two JCOs and an arrested Pakistani terrorist have been killed and three security men injured since the commencement of the operation on October 11.

While five Army personnel were killed on the first day of the operation in Surankote forest of Poonch, four other soldiers lost their lives in Bhatti Durrian area of Mendhar on October 14.

The Pakistani terrorist, who was shifted from Kot Bhalwal Central Jail Jammu to Mendhar on police remand for

questioning in connection with the ongoing operation was killed when the security forces accompanying him to identify a hideout came under fire from hiding terrorists on Sunday.

Besides Surankote and Mendhar, the search operation also continued in nearby Thanamandi forest in Rajouri district.

The officials said Army helicopters made several sorties over the besieged forest area, while drones are also being used to keep a tight surveillance to ensure that the terrorists are not able to flee.

Nearly a dozen persons

including two women were also detained for questioning after it came to light that they allegedly provided logistic support including food and shelter to the terrorists, the officials said.

Traffic between Mendhar and Thanamandi along the Jammu-Rajouri highway remained suspended as a precautionary measure for the 10th day on Monday in the wake of the ongoing operation.

Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, resulting in the killing of nine terrorists in separate encounters.



Would rather talk to Kashmir's youth: Shah on NC Chief seeking talks with Pak

Firing resumes in Poonch-Rajouri forests, search ops enter day-15

market in Jammu and Kashmir, the statement said.

According to the statement, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday presented land allocation papers to Sajjan Jindal, Chairman & Managing Director of JSW Group. This facility will be set up with an investment of around Rs 150 crore at Lassipora, Pulwama in Kashmir. Jindal said, "This facility shall provide immense benefits to local businesses and society in a meaningful way and provide employment opportunities to the local youth."

JSW Steel is the

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JSW Group to set up Rs 150-cr steel unit in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: JSW Group on Monday said it will invest Rs 150 crore to set up a 1.2 lakh metric tonne color coated steel manufacturing facility in Jammu and Kashmir.

The plant will be set up by group company JSW Steel, JSW Group said in a statement.

"JSW has committed to setting up a state of the art color coated steel manufacturing facility of capacity 1,20,000 metric tons per annum along with special lines," it said.

Steel sandwich panels and steel doors will be manufactured at the unit for the local

NEET-PG counselling not to commence till SC decides on OBC, EWS quota: Centre

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Centre assured the Supreme Court on Monday that the counselling process of NEET-PG will not commence till the top court decides the challenge to 27 per cent reservation for OBC and 10 per cent for EWS category in PG All India Quota seats (MBBS/BDS and MD/MS/MDS) from the current academic session.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna recorded the assurance given by Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, and observed that students will be in serious problem if the counselling process goes ahead as scheduled.

The assurance by Nataraj was given after senior

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 26.5°C Min: 13.7°C

Humidity

Max: 74 Min: 61

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 13.7°C Min: 6.5°C

Humidity

Max: 82 Min: 76

Sunset: 17:49 Hours

Sunrise: 06:44 Hours

Scuffle between Kashmiri students, those from UP, Bihar after India-Pak match at Punjab institute

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU/CHANDIGARH: A scuffle broke out between a group of Kashmiri students and those from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at an engineering institute in Punjab's Sangrur district following the T20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan, police said on Monday.

The incident took place after some slogans were raised after the match on Sunday night, police said.

The Kashmiri students and the students from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were

PM launches mega health infra mission, says previous Govts cared little for healthcare

STATE TIMES NEWS
VARANASI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the previous governments of dragging their feet on healthcare as he launched a nationwide Rs 64,000-crore medical infrastructure mission and nine new medical colleges during his visit to these two Uttar Pradesh cities.

"All this work should have been done decades ago, he said in his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, where he inaugurated the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission meant to plug gaps in the healthcare system.

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watching the match on television in their respective rooms at the Bhai Gurdas Institute of Engineering and Technology in Sangrur.

The Kashmiri students allegedly cheered for Pakistan and raised some slogans, which did not go well with the students from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Heated exchanges took place between the two sides after the match, which was won by Pakistan.

A video clip surfaced on social media platforms purportedly showing a Kashmiri student alleging that some

60 fresh COVID cases reported in J&K, 5 in Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday reported 60 new Covid cases-- nine from Jammu division and 51 from the Kashmir Valley, thus taking the total to 331698.

Also, one COVID death has been reported from Jammu Division, officials said.

Moreover, 90 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 23 from Jammu Division and 67 from Kashmir Division.

Officials said that no new case of Mucormycosis

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students from Uttar Pradesh barged into their room and assaulted them.

"We were watching the match and some students from Uttar Pradesh forcibly came inside. We are here to study. We are also Indians," the student said while showing the damage to his room.

He also alleged that the security guards allowed the students from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to barge into their room.

Police later said the issue has been resolved between both sides and they have tendered apologies. No com-

Shah spends night at CRPF camp in Pulwama; says will see a peaceful J&K 'in our lifetime'

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Modi government has a zero-tolerance policy towards terror, and while the situation has improved a lot in Jammu and Kashmir, "we should not be

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Govt to conduct offline exams for classes 10th, 12th with consent of parents

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government on Monday issued fresh COVID-19 guidelines stating that offline board examinations for 12th and 10th classes have been permitted to be held in staggered manner keeping in view all the social distancing norms and COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

All the concerned institutions have been asked to ensure that all the students coming to the examinations venue shall carry consent for each examination duly signed by their parents/legal guardians.

"The sanitisation of the

Shah spends night at CRPF camp in Pulwama; says will see a peaceful J&K 'in our lifetime'

night at the CRPF Campus in Lethpora in Pulwama where a suicide car bomb attack by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in February 2019 had left 40 paramilitary personnel dead.

"I want to spend one night with you people and understand your problems," Shah said addressing the security personnel at the CRPF campus, adding it was his "most important" engagement during his visit to the Union territory.

Shah said that the law and order situation has improved a lot in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that he was

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satisfied till total peace is achieved", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.

Shah, who extended his three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, stayed for the

How long shall Reliance Insurance 'file' in J&K remain shrouded in mystery?

JAMMU: Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik seems to have triggered panic button in the Union Territory Civil Secretariat by repeating the allegation of corruption in insurance deal for government employees, pensioners and journals by a reputed corporate house of the country. The proverb goes that fear is the key which opens the wallets of the rich. In the instant case, the reiteration of the charge has pushed guilty to seek remedial measures after having temporarily succeeded in getting the file archived under the carpet. It is not that the present gubernatorial dispensation is not sensitive towards corruption but,

perhaps, it is pursuing zero tolerance against graft in letter and spirit. It is different that people may succeed for the time being in keeping heat to remain away due to murky sections of the bureaucracy.

Though not named yet the people have some inkling about the officer involved in pushing the file of Reliance General Insurance. The deal was almost through but for the speed-breaker put by Malik, who claims to have been hinted at getting Rs 150 crore for approval. Such was the tempo of the proposal that the nitty-gritty and formats for insurance cover had been set in motion and some of the employees had even contributed their part of premiums.

The timely intervention by the Raj Bhawan at that point of time stalled a move, which was not fair as its operation was based on 'commission', a decent

and decorative term for corruption. Who doesn't know about the malady of corruption in Jammu and Kashmir? In 2005, Transparency International, an international NGO, had placed J&K at number two after Bihar in the list of most corrupt states of the country. This was even confirmed by the then State Accountability Commission, which had registered over 100 complaints in a short span of one month.

In a corrupt set up, as murky as Dal Lake due to manmade disastrous pollution, hushing up of cases was a common phenomenon. Taking advantage of this culture, the mover of the Reliance General Insurance file has thus far succeeded in putting the case on the backburner. But the bureaucrat has not succeeded in getting the case hushed up despite his clout and contacts in the administration-both in J&K capitals

and the national capital of New Delhi. Guilt, that he is involved and his involvement is hurting to the man on the street must be hurting the bureaucrat. Reiteration of charges by the former and the last Governor of the erstwhile state must have sapped the morale of the officer involved and his huge support base.

What next? This is a question bothering the people and haunting the guilty. Satya Pal Malik did stall the move but could not name and shame the offender, least to say get him booked for committing a crime. We won't ask why. We won't also ask why the successor to Malik and the first Lieutenant Governor of the newly carved out Union Territory Girish Chander Murmu failed in doing the job. The bureaucrat was not incognito despite not being named. He was removed from the post that enabled him

to move the proposal. He had got exposed the day Satya Pal Malik took off the lid from the can of worms. The bureaucrat, though moved, got the case wrapped notwithstanding the then Governor claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been taken into confidence.

There is someone, somewhere doing something to shield J&K's corrupt Babu but that someone cannot be stronger enough than Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha-a man of action-to dig out the truth. Governor Malik's attributions cannot be dismissed as his usual habit of raising controversies, as he did just hours before leveling charges of corruption against the Goa Chief Minister.

Let the fair, impartial and time-bound probe on Reliance General Insurance 'file' bring out the truth. The ball is in the Raj Bhawan's court!

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