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Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis in J&K to get quota benefits: Amit Shah

Free J&K from clutches of 3 families; today's rally befitting reply to those who used to threaten bloodbath over abrogating Art 370

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced that the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities in Jammu and Kashmir will get reservation benefits in accordance with the recommendations of the Justice Sharma Commission which examined the issue of quota.

He said this while addressing a rally organised in this town, situated at the foothills of the Pir Panjal mountain range along the Indo-Pak border.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Members of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and Ghulam Ali Khatana were also present on the occasion.

Shah also said there will be no decline in ST quota of Gujjars and Bakerwals and Paharis and everyone will get their share.

He said the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 has paved the way for providing



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a public gathering at Rajouri on Tuesday.

reservation benefits to the deprived sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir. "The Justice Sharma Commission has recommended that Paharis, Bakerwal and Gujjars should be included for ST quota benefits. These recommendations

have been received and soon after completion of legal procedure, Gujjars, Bakerwals and Paharis will get the reservation benefits," he said. The Home Minister said some people have tried to instigate the Gujjars and Bakerwals in the name of ST

status being given to Paharis but the people have foiled their design.

Coming down heavily on the Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said earlier just three political families used to rule the erstwhile state, but now power is with

30,000 people who were elected to panchayats and district councils through fair elections.

Referring to the possibility of holding assembly elections, he said delimitation exercise was carried out before holding the Assembly polls in

Jammu and Kashmir.

"Delimitation was necessary before polls as earlier delimitation was not as per norms. Now, the delimitation has been done as per norms and there is increase in no of seats in hilly areas

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

One each PDP, NC leader promise to join BJP if Pahari community granted ST status

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two prominent leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference have expressed their desire to join the BJP on condition that the central government grants Schedule Tribe status to their Pahari community.

PDP District President Rajouri Tazeem Dar and senior NC leader Shafiqat Mir gave the assurance to Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting here on Monday night, sources said.

The two leaders were part of a Pahari community delegation which called on the home minister shortly after

his arrival on a three-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir. Representatives of several other communities including Gujjars and Bakerwals, Sikhs, Dogra society, Yuva Rajput Sabha and Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha also met Shah, a former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president.

While the Pahari community is seeking a scheduled tribe status and enjoying the backing of local BJP leaders, Gujjars and Bakerwals have openly opposed any such favour to the community on the plea that they did not fit the criteria necessary for

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

DGP Lohia's suspicious murder case: Domestic help arrested from Kanhachak

LG Manoj Sinha, DGP Dilbag Singh express grief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 23-year-old man working as a domestic help was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly murdering Jammu and Kashmir Director General (Prisons) Hemant K Lohia, police said.

Yasir Lohar's arrest from a field in Kanhachak area followed a major all-night manhunt, police said in a statement, adding that his interrogation was underway.

The 1992-batch IPS officer was found dead on Monday night at his friend's house on the outskirts of Jammu, with



Accused Yasir Lohar

burn injuries on his body and his throat slit. Police said initial investiga-

tions did not point towards a terror angle.

Though a terror group People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF) claimed responsibility for his murder, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, who visited the crime scene, told reporters these terror groups shamelessly own everything and anything.

There was no clue which suggested involvement of any terror group. For the time being, the terror angle is ruled out but if, during investigation, such a thing comes

to light, we will see to it, he said.

The murder of Lohia, who had returned to head the prisons of the union territory, came at a time when Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

"In a major manhunt launched by Jammu and Kashmir police throughout the night, the accused involved in murder case of the DG prisons has been apprehended. Interrogation of the accused has

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG's greetings on Dussehra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings on the eve of Dussehra.

In a message, the Lt Governor said, "On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all. Dussehra symbolises the victory of good over evil

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

10 individuals designated as terrorists by Home Ministry

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A total of 10 members of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other proscribed outfits were on Tuesday designated as terrorists by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Those designated as terrorists include Habibullah Malik alias

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Golden period foundation laid due to path breaking initiatives of J&K Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The path breaking initiatives of Government launched in various sectors from last three are laying the foundations of Golden period across Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the last three years, the pace of execution of developmental schemes has increased five times on account of resurgent institutional framework.

Similarly, grassroot democratic institutions like Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies have been empowered to actively participate in the decision-making process to

cater to the needs of common citizens.

In the past two years, the government has endeavoured to develop areas which had remained neglected till now. Dalits, tribals and socio-economically backward classes have benefited from an equitable governance system, so have the women of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Territory has achieved new horizons of success in the field of business, economy, education, culture and sports.

The aspirations of the youth of Jammu and

Kashmir have been synchronized with the aspirations of the country now. Their dreams are not confined to personal development, but transcend to create a good future for the society, nation and the entire humanity. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir aspire for an equitable society free from poverty, unemployment and exploitation. They want a society which challenges and harnesses their creativity.

Union government and J&K administration is making every effort to make impossible things

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

IAF to unveil new combat uniform for personnel on Air Force Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: The Chief of Air Staff will unveil the new pattern of combat uniform for Indian Air Force personnel on Air Force Day here on Saturday, officials said.

Air Force Day marks the official induction of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1932. Every year, the day is celebrated in the presence of the Indian Air Force chief and senior officers.

"There will be a parade in the morning at the Air Force station here. On the occasion, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Vivek

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Enthusiasm marks Durga Pooja celebrations in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Enthusiasm and fervour were in full display as the Bengali community here came out to celebrate Durga Puja.

The five-day festival, which began on October 1, was celebrated as per tradition at puja pandals in different parts of the city, officials said.

"We have been organising this puja for more than 50 years..." Jammu Durga Puja Committee Secretary Rinku Bose said.

"Earlier it used to be a small-scale event limited to a few families. Now, with many



A woman performing Sakh Visarjan at Tawi river in Jammu.

national-level institutions People from across religion coming up in Jammu, many come here and we Bengali families have joined.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 35.2°C Min: 19.8°C

Humidity

Max : 72 Min : 59

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 27.9°C Min: 9.6°C

Humidity

Max : 66 Min: 42

Sunset : 18:14 Hours

Sunrise : 06:28 Hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday arrived here as part of his three-day tour to the Union territory, officials said.

They said Shah arrived at the Srinagar airport from the Jammu region at around 7 pm.

The Union home minister set off the three-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. He met several delegations on Monday, and on Tuesday, he visited Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine at Katra and addressed a public rally in Rajouri.

On the Shah's Kashmir itinerary is a public rally in Baramulla on Wednesday and a security review meeting, the officials said.

They said the focus of the



World Kick-boxing Champion, Tajamul Islam meeting HM Amit Shah at Srinagar on Tuesday.

meeting will be on tackling the attacks on the non-locals in the Kashmir valley.

The launch and foundation laying of various development projects in Srinagar is also on Shah's list, the officials said, adding he will then return to Delhi the same evening.

Security has been tightened in the valley for the Shah's visit. The officials said multi-tier security has been put in place and drones are being used for aerial surveillance as well.

The checking on Srinagar-Baramulla highway has

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

List of projects for Union Home Minister

- Events under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- National Rural Livelihood Mission (UMEED)/SHGs.
- Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Activities under Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan.
- Activation of Drug De-Addiction Centres.
- Release of J&K SDG Report 2022.
- Home Department
 - Laying of e-foundation stone of Women Battalion, Sopore.
- Jal Shakti Department
 - i) Construction of hydraulic gates at the entry/exit point of Hokersar Wetland of flood spill channel: Rs. 28.45crore (For laying of foundation stone)
 - ii). 15 Water Supply Schemes in Kashmir Division under Jal Jeevan Mission worth Rs. 107.45 crore (For laying of foundation stone)
- Housing and Urban Development Department
 - 1. 11 Urban Development Projects for inauguration in Kashmir Division worth Rs. 18.53 crore
- Public Works Department
 - 1. Inaugurations
 - i. 74 roads with length of 434.37 kms worth Rs. 442.58

- crore.
- 7 bridges worth Rs. 23.40 crore.
- 1 building worth Rs. 4.97 crore.
- Foundation Stones
 - i. 94 roads with length of 580.92 kms worth Rs. 511.66 crore.
 - ii. 1 building worth Rs. 13.78 crore.
- Power Development Department.
 - i) 20 No Projects worth Rs 200.14 Cr are ready for Inauguration.
 - ii). Foundation stone of 7 projects worth Rs 367.67 Cr to be laid
- Health and Medical Education Department
 - i) Inauguration of IPD Block, SDH, Bijbehara, at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.47 crore.
 - ii).Inauguration of OPD-cum-Administration Block/Staff Quarters at SDH, Dooru, at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.79 crore.
 - iii) Foundation Stone of new building for Sub-District Hospital at Hazratbal, Srinagar, at an estimated cost of Rs. 18.99 crore.
- Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department
 - Total 24 martyr families have received jobs. 20 NoKs have already got it, four are likely to get today.