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SAJ to host landmark Surgical **Conference in Jammu from Nov 14-16**

Sports Minister declares open Fencing championship at JU

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

District Grappling Championship

JKPS Kunjwani shines in Open

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

IWT creating hurdles in J&K's potential hydel power generation: CM

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Calls for speedier implementation of RDSS works by Central PSUs, greater accountability



Chief Minister addressing Conference of Power Minister at New Delhi on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister, J&K, Omar Abdullah, on Tuesday highlighted the implications of Indus Water Treaty (IWT) on river-rich Jammu & Kashmir, which restricts its ability to harness its huge hydel power potential primarily due to storage constraints.

As fallout of the treaty barriers, the Chief Minister said J&K pays a heavy price in peak winter months when power generation hits low, creating hardships

Omar, who also holds the charge of Power portfolio, was speaking during the Conference of Power Ministers of Indus Water Treaty that restricts

States & UT, here.

force with a total strength of

1,025 personnel led by a sen-

STATE TIMES NEWS

on Tuesday accused the

Waqf Board of grabbing

land of temples, villagers

and others in Karnataka

and asserted that it was

time to make changes in

the body and amend the

He also claimed that

implementation of the

Uniform Civil Code (UCC),

which is "needed to check

infiltrators", and assured

tribals that they would be

kept out of its ambit.

no one can stop the

related Act.

BAGHMARA/JHARIA

(JHARKHAND): Union

Home Minister Amit Shah

Union Minister for Power, Manohar Lal, chaired the conference, which was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Power, J&K, H. Rajesh Prasad and MDs of J&K Discoms as part of J&K delegation.

Minister of State for Power, Shripad Yesso Naik, was also present in the Conference which was attended by Power Ministers and senior Government

functionaries from all over the country. Speaking at the conference, Omar highlighted the limiting clauses in the Jammu & Kashmir from realising its full hydel potential by only permitting run-of-the-river projects.

"Hydel power is J&K's only viable energy source. The region is compelled to rely on power imports from other States, which adversely impacts its economy.

To address this, J&K would require special compensation from the Government of India, including viability gap funding and equity assistance, to harness its untapped hydro-energy potential," he said, adding the support would not only help in meeting the region's energy needs but also contribute to national clean energy goals.

Chief Minister also sought Centre's intervention in holding Central Public Sector Undertakings like PESL and National Thermal Power Corporation accountable in fast tracking loss reduction works under the premier Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme in J&K.

The Chief Minister also requested Power Ministry to consider gap funding for implementation of electric infra works under RDSS.

During the session on solar power potential and green energy, the Chief Minister dwelled **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Wall collapse in Reasi leaves 13 injured

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI/JAMMU: A wall of a house collapsed during a religious function in Reasi district, leaving 13 people injured, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in Siyol village near Katra on Monday night, they said.

The injured were shifted to the Narayana Hospital in

Two criminals arrested for shooting at man

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two criminals have been arrested for allegedly shooting at a a man here, police said on Tuesday. Imran Khaleel, a resident of Guijar locality, was injured when some unidentified criminals opened fire on him at Nikki Tawi area of the city during the intervening night of November 2 and 3 and was subsequently admitted in Government Medical College Hospital, Superintendent of Police (Jammu Rural) Brijesh

Kumar Sharma said. "The firing case stands solved with the arrest of

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Cong, allies politically benefitting from violence, separatism: Modi

'Weeks ago, we saw what happened in J&K'

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHIMUR (MAHARASH-TRA): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the Congress and its allies have been politically benefiting from violence and separatism.

"Just a few weeks ago, we saw what happened in Jammu and Kashmir", the Prime Minister said while addressing a rally at Chimur Maharashtra's Chandrapur district ahead of the November 20 state

assembly elections.

On the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, Modi said that it took seven decades to ensure that the country had Constitution.

"Will you allow the Congress and its allies to bring back Article 370 in Kashmir," he asked.

"This region has been burning for decades due to separatism and terrorism. The provision under which all this happened was Article 370. And this Article 370 was a legacy of Congress. As



soon as we abolished it, we fully integrated Kashmir with India and its Constitution," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that it has always been the mentality of the 'Shahi Parivar' of Congress that it was born to rule the country.

"This is the reason that after Independence, the Congress never allowed Dalits, backward classes and Adivasis to progress," Modi said.

"The Congress gets irritated with (the topic of) reservations. In the 1980s, when Rajiv Gandhi led the party, it published an advertisement

special rights enjoyed by Dalits, backward classes and Adivasis," Modi said.

This old advertisement has

been shared on social media, he said. It reflected that party's anti-reservation attitude, he added. "It is a dangerous game of the Congress to break your

unity. If a tribal society gets

divided into castes, its identi-

ty and strength will be lost,' Modi said. "The prince of Congress has himself announced while he was abroad. That is why I

say that we should ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Govt sanctions first all-women reserve battalion for CISF

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A first-ever all-women CISF battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union government keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force in VIP security, airports and other vital installa-

Officials told PTI that the unit will be raised from within the sanctioned manpower of the force of about two lakh personnel.

The Union home ministry issued a sanction order on Monday approving an excluwomen unit "reserve battalion" in the

Higher reaches of Kashmir witness light intermittent snowfall STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Light intermittent snowfall continued in some of the higher reaches of Kashmir, resulting in the closure of vital routes in the upper areas of the valley, officials said on Tuesday.

The season's first snowfall in Kashmir, which began on Monday, continued at many places during the night, the officials said. They said reports of snow-

fall were received from upper areas of Gulmarg and Sonamarg tourist resorts.

Parts of Kupwara and Bandipora districts also withnessed snowfall.

The snowfall led to the temporary closure Srinagar-Leh national highway and other vital routes in the higher reaches of the valley, the officials said.

Authorities, including the Border Roads Organisation, pressed their men and machinery into service to clear the snow this ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Max: 14.5°C Min: 5.3°C

Max: 82 Min: 65 Sunset: 17:32 Hours Sunrise: 06:56 Hours

Northern Commander reviews operational preparedness of troops in Jammu review the ongoing counter-

STATE TIMES NEWS

Time to make changes in 'land

grabber' Waqf Board: Amit Shah

"The Waqf Board is in the

habit of grabbing land. In

Karnataka, it has devoured

the assets of villagers. It has

grabbed land parcels of tem-

ples, farmers and villagers.

Tell me whether changes are

required in Waqf Board or

not. Hemant Babu and

Rahul Gandhi say no. I tell

JAMMU: Army's Northern ior commandant-rank officer, they said. Commander Lt Gen M V Women personnel consti-Sudhindra Kumar on Tuesday visited the White tute over seven per cent of the force whose present Knight Corps here to review strength is about 1.80 lakh. the operational preparedness A force spokesperson said of troops, the military said. The visit of the General preparations for the early

recruitment, training and Officer Commanding-inselection of location for stachief of Udhampur-based tioning the new reserve bat-Northern Command to the 16 corps headquarters came talion has been initiated. "The training is being speamid intensified anti-terror operations especially in the cially designed to create an elite battalion capable of perremote forest areas of forming a multifarious role Kishtwar district where a as commandos in VIP securi-Junior Commissioned ty and also security of ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Defence Guards were killed



Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen M V Sudhindra Kumar arrives in Jammu on Tuesday

incidents in the past five

In a related development,

you let them oppose it, the

BJP will pass the Bill to

amend the Waqf Act. No one

can stop us," Shah said while

Baghmara.

addressing a poll rally

He also accused the

JMM-led coalition of

making infiltrators its

vote bank and claimed

that "trainloads of ille-

gal immigrants will be

sent to Bangladesh if

the BJP is voted to power in

"No one can stop imple-

mentation of Uniform Civil

Jharkhand".

Code aimed at

Jharkhand's

visited Kishtwar sector to

by terrorists in two separate the general officer commanding of White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva later

at Chenab bridge

STATE TIMES NEWS

Security agencies conduct mock drill

JAMMU: Multiple security agencies conducted a mock drill at the Chenab Railway Bridge, the world's highest rail bridge and a critical infrastructure of the country, in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on

Tuesday, an official said. Spanning over 1.3 kilometres, the bridge is a vital link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal, which forms part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla section of the Kashmir Railway project, officials said. "The district police in Reasi, along

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Conference,

XVI corps, to review the operational preparedness. The Army Cdr (commander) exhorted all ranks to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and

alertness in anti terrorist

In a post on X, Army's

Northern Command said Lt

Gen Kumar visited the White

Knight Corps, also known as

terror operations.

operations," the post read. Security officials said the massive search operation in Keshwan, Kuntwara and adjoining forest areas in Kishtwar district entered

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NGT slams authorities over jaundice outbreak in Shopian village It directed the Union

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The National

Green Tribunal (NGT) has pulled up the authorities over the outbreak of jaundice at a village in the district, and also castigated the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and the Shopian Commissioner for filing a "casually prepared" report on

the matter. The bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said the authorities failed to take remedial measures to ensure the residents of Pahnoo village had access to clean drinking

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Deputy Commissioner of Shopian to ensure the village had proper sanitation and safe drinking water.

The green body took suo motu cognisance of a news report regarding several children in the village getting jaundice earlier this year ostensibly because of drinking contaminated water.

In its order passed on November 6, which was uploaded on the tribunal's website on Tuesday, the bench, also comprising judicial member Justice

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Conferred undue benefits to HCC; huge loss to Govt exchequer ACB registers FIR against Ex-Chief Engineer, Mughal Road Project, M/s Hindustan Construction Company, others

cation, it came to fore that

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau has registered an FIR under Prevention of Corruption Act, on outcome of a verification into the allegations relating to award of payments in the construction of Mughal Road from Bufliaz to Shopian-Pulwama, wherein the then Chief Engineer Raman Puri purportedly admitted the claims of the company, which the department controverted. The matter involved serious financial stakes, resulting huge loss to the government exchequer During the course of verifitender was invited through Commissioner Works/Chief Engineer Mughal Road Project PWD (R&B) Department on March 15, 2005 and after due procedure, the award of contract was allotted to M/s Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. for214,40,00,000

Development Commissioner Works on the approval/ recommendation of State Contract Committee. An agreement into this effect was entered vide Agreement No. 61 PW(R&B) of 2006, dated Feb 6, 2006 wherein the date of start was March 1. 2006 and date of completion as 36 months i.e Feb 28, 2009. Thereafter, the supplementary agreement drawn on 25.01.2010 has been entered into the parties for Rs 126.64 crores, with date of completion as March 31, 2011. The extension of time was further granted with time of completion upto Feb 15, 2012. As the work was not completed upto the prescribed time-Feb 15, 2012, the company again raised the issue for grant of extension of time for delay. The matter was referred to

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Debate on Article 370 should want basic issues addressed cease, people



debate on Article 370 is benefitting none, not even to who have insisted on the restoration of the special status of Jammu

Kashmir with the constitutional guarantees. The right to debate cannot be denied in a democracy but when the end esult measured from any stretch of imagination is going to be minus-zero, it should be given up. This is becoming a big hurdle in addressing other urgent issues facing the people of two regions, who voted for redressal of their grievances over the years.

Before coming to the issues that demand urgent attention, it is imperative for the parties insisting on the restoration of Article 370 explicitly or otherwise to understand what they are

up against. They are standing up to the Parliament and the Supreme Court. The decisions are well known and by now the whole of the country has adopted the abrogation of Article 370 as something natural and organic, which cannot be overturned by the hyperbolic rhetoric on restoration of something that is near impossible.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah- a champion of the restoration of the Article 370, scrapped on August 5, 2019 - has told in no uncertain terms that it would not be back as long as the current set-up is in place. It means he knows that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will refuse to entertain this idea. This is not any rigidity on the issue. It is all about the parliamentary procedures and their sanctity. The amendments to abrogate this constitutional part was approved and passed with a thumping majority in both the houses of the Parliament. This

showed that how the whole country was too eager for this outcome. The national context was there from the very beginning. The sensitivities of the nation took precedence over something that had become redundant over a period of time. The aggrieved parties - National Conference, PDP, and People's

NEWS ANALYSIS

Conference approached Supreme Court of India with the hope that they would get something out of this effort. The moment any party moves the court and particularly when it is the apex court of the country, it is given that the verdict would be accepted with grace. The Supreme Court, after weeks-long hearing, which the whole nation watched on TV screens, delivered a judgment in favour of the Parliament's act of abrogating Article 370. After that the prudence demanded that the whole issue

should have been halted. It didn't hap-

The political parties in Kashmir used it as an election campaign issue. The people in the Valley were not convinced that these parties could do anything, but they wanted to convey a message, which side of the fence they stood. National Conference secured a decisive victory . This victory has been analyzed and interpreted as rejection of the abrogation of Article 370. Is it really so? Perhaps not. The voters also voted for sustaining peace in Kashmir, which had visited the land after decades of trials and tribulations - thousands of lives were lost and lakhs got dislocated. The ruling party should have understood the mixed mandate.

Having done what it did in the Assembly, it is time to put a stop to all the debate on the issue. As of today, it is understood that the resolution so passed is going to be delivered to the Centre to

that the Centre would take a call on it but till the time it rejects it officially, it is presumed that the resolution has entered silence zone.

The Omar Abdullah government has so many promises to fulfill. It had promised that the masses would get a better qual ity of life in which the core issues of basic amenities will be addressed on priority basis. The government should rework or its priorities as the people are looking for jobs, explore avenues of living a dignified life and social harmony. The debate or the Article 370, its merits and demerits only add to uncertainties. This is a mate rial that the workshop of the idlers is looking for. They seek to spread this as part of their agenda in which they under mine all good things that the government thinks of doing that. So, best course is to put a full stop on the debate and get or with its work to deliver on the promise or people's welfare.