



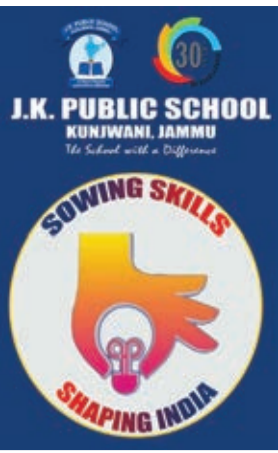
# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh



**03** Dr Jitendra hails universal Ayushman health cover for all citizens above 70

**03** Enforcement of use of proper bulbs/tubes in head lights of vehicles must be ensured by MVD & Traffic police for safe driving

**10** 16-member J&K Archery team named for Nationals

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

## Art 370 sowed seeds of separatism in Kashmir; Modi Govt ended terror in J&K: Amit Shah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Article 370 sowed seeds of separatism in the minds of the youth of Kashmir and the Narendra Modi government not only ended terrorism in the valley but also the ecosystem of terrorism.

Shah said Article 370 and Article 35A, both of which were abrogated on August 5, 2019, were the key hurdles in the way of full integration of Kashmir into India.

Referring to Kashmir's relations with the rest of India, the home minister said India is the only country in the world which is geo-cultural and whose boundaries are formed by its culture. India can be understood only from the Indian perspective and not from the geo-political perspective, he said here while releasing a book 'Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh: Through the Ages'.



From the Silk Route to Central Asia and from Shankaracharya temple to Hemis monastery; and from trade to spirituality, strong foundations of both are present in and of Kashmir's culture, he said.

Shah said Article 370 gave the false impression that Kashmir's integration with India is temporary.

"Many people often ask me what is the relation between

Article 370 and terrorism. They don't know that Article 370 sowed the seeds of separatism in the minds of the youth of the valley.

"There are Muslim populations in many other parts of the country. Why are those areas not affected by terrorism?" he said.

The home minister said some people say Kashmir is close to the border with Pakistan and hence, the problem came.

"But Gujarat is also close to the border with Pakistan. Rajasthan is also close to the Pakistan border. Why terrorism has not grown there?" he asked.

Shah said Article 370 gave the false impression that Kashmir's integration with India is temporary and that sowed the seeds of separatism which later turned into terrorism.

Unfortunately, over 40,000 people lost their lives due

## Three found dead in guest house in Bhadrawah, police suspect asphyxiation

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADRAWAH: Three people were found dead under suspicious circumstances in a guest house in Doda district, officials said.

As per details, on January 1, 2025, on the receipt of the information from reliable sources, it was learnt that three persons namely Ashutosh Rama, son of Dilip Singh, resident of Bhella, district Doda at present Purkhoo Jammu;

## Five IAS officers promoted to Selection Grade

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Ministry of Home Affairs has promoted five IAS officers of AGMUT Cadre from the Jammu and Kashmir to the Selection Grade (Level 13 in the pay matrix).

According to order, the promoted officers include Asad Aijaz, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Ravinder Kumar, Piyush Singla, and Amit Sharma.

## Centre should be given first chance to restore statehood: Omar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Asserting that the Centre should be given "first chance" to fulfil its promise of restoring the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said approaching courts on the issue would mean a "fight" and that it should be the "last option".

During his first media meet here since assuming office in October, Abdullah also dismissed suggestions that his National Conference was under pressure to join the BJP-led NDA and expressed optimism that the promises made by the Centre to restore statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be fulfilled at the earliest.

When asked why the J-K government did not approach court for restoration of statehood and went to the Centre with the resolution on it, he said going to the courts would mean getting into



CM Omar Abdullah addressing press conference at Srinagar.

## Focus on reducing power distribution losses, speed up metering: CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said his government will focus on reducing power distribution losses and expediting metering in the union territory to ensure more electricity supply for the people.

"Metering is an ongoing process, it is a part of the government of India scheme. We are committed to implementing it and we will. Obviously, the more metering that happens, the less pilferage there will be," Abdullah told reporters at a media interaction here.

He said both the J&K administration and the Union Power Ministry are committed to advancing these reforms and ensuring their successful implementation, "which we will do".

Further, the chief minister said J&K is spending Rs 9,500 crore a year to buy power from

## 4 IPS Officers of J&K among 14 from AGMUT cadre promoted to IGP grade

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Four IPS Officers of erstwhile J&K cadre, among fourteen IPS Officers of AGMUT cadre promoted to IGP grade.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced the promotion of Four IPS Officers of erstwhile J&K cadre among fourteen IPS Officers from the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories) Cadre 2007 batch to the IGP Grade (Level-14 in the Pay Matrix).

"In pursuance to the recommendations of the Screening Committee in its meeting held on December 19, 2024,

the eleven IPS officers of AGMUT cadre 2007, currently posted in the cadre, are hereby promoted to the IGP Grade (Level-14 in the Pay Matrix) from January 1, 2025 or from the date of assumption of charge, whichever is later," reads an order issued by Rakesh Kumar Singh, Under Secretary to Government of India, MHA.

The IPS officers promoted to the IGP Grade include Vijay Kumar, Sunil Gupta, Sujit Kumar, Vivek Gupta, Surender Kumar, Mohd. Suleman Choudhary, Nupur Prasad, Aslam Khan,

## Brutal assault on Hotel manager, staff FIR registered against Aggarwal brothers, accomplice; accused still at large

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The shocking assault at a Trikuta Nagar hotel staff involving Mohit Aggarwal and Shashank Aggarwal, sons of local businessman Rakesh Aggarwal, has taken a serious turn as the three accused-Aggarwal brothers and one Arun Choudhary remain at large.

The violent attack, which left two hotel staff members gravely injured, has also sparked outrage across the city. Locals demanding action against these criminal minded Aggarwal brothers who called



Mohit Aggarwal Shashank Aggarwal Arun Choudhary

goons to attack hotel staff over bill payment dispute.

FIR (1/25) under sections 332-C 191(2), 115 (2), 324 (4), 352, 351 (2) has been registered against the accused

## ACB registers case in irregularities in selection process of Fireman, Fireman Drivers

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case concerning alleged irregularities in the selection process for Fireman and Fireman Drivers in the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Department.

According to an ACB official, "A communication dated July 24, 2024 of General Administration Department (GAD), along with report of inquiry committee constituted by the Government to inquire into the allegations of irregularities committed in the selection process of Fireman/Fireman Drivers

during the year, 2020 in the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Department, was received in this Bureau conveying therein the decision of competent authority for carrying out investigation in the matter."

The inquiry committee, so constituted, recommended criminal investigation through ACB on the allegation of paper leakage viz-avis the other aspects so recommended by the inquiry committee, official said adding that on receipt of the aforesaid communication, the matter was initially enquired in this

## Five SHOs among eleven police officers transferred

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Joginder Singh on Thursday transferred five SHO among eleven police officials.

According to the order, Inspector Jai Paul Singh has been transferred from DPO Jammu and posted as SHO Police Station Satwari; Inspector Vikram Sharma from Cyber Cell, DPO Jammu has been posted as SHO Janipur; Inspector Sandeep Singh Katoch, from DPL (I/CERT/ESU Lab) posted as SHO Police Station Miran Sahib; Inspector Azad Ahmed from DPL (I/C PCR/Media Cell) posted as SHO Bakshi Nagar; Inspector Manoj Dhar from DPL Jammu posted as SHO Police Station Kanachak; Inspector Sushil Kumar SHO Satwari has been posted as Incharge CRT DPL/ESU Lab, Jammu; Inspector Bopinder Singh from Police Station Miran Sahib has been posted as Incharge Cyber Cell, DPO Jammu; Inspector

## Driver rams New Year's revellers in New Orleans, killing 15; FBI doesn't believe he acted alone



**AGENCY**  
NEW ORLEANS: An Army veteran driving a pickup truck that bore the flag of the Islamic State group wrought carnage on New Orleans' raucous New Year's celebration, killing 15 people as he steered around a police blockade and slammed into revellers before being

## We strongly condemn cowardly terrorist attack: Modi

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday condemned the terrorist attack in New Orleans, which has killed 15 people, and expressed condolences to the families of victims. "We strongly condemn the cowardly terrorist attack in New Orleans. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. May they find strength and solace as they heal from this tragedy," PM Modi said on X.

## Arms license scam: Sanction granted to prosecute IAS Officer Rajiv Ranjan

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Centre has granted sanction to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to prosecute Kumar Rajeev Ranjan (IAS: 2010: AGMUT), for his alleged involvement in arms license scam in J&K. Kumar Rajeev Ranjan was then Deputy Commissioner of Jammu, one among nine IAS officers, who were accused of issuing arms license on monetary considerations to non-deserving applicants. The Department of Personnel and

## PIL seeking eviction of Ex-Ministers/Ex-Legislators/Political Persons Ex Dy CM, J&K BJP Chief among others vacate Ministerial Bungalows after facing HC's displeasure

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In the much publicised PIL No.17/2020 seeking eviction of Ex-Ministers/Ex-Legislators/Political Persons from Ministerial Bungalows/A-type Kothis/Govt. Quarters, the Estates Department pursuant to order dated December 12, 2024 passed by the Division Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh filed its updated Compliance/Status Report wherein it was mentioned that former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has vacated the Govt. accommo-

modation. The compliance report has also highlighted that eviction order was issued to J&K BJP President Sat Sharma on November 21, 2024 and Notice for payment of penal rent amounting to Rs. 73,470 upto December 30, 2024 has also been issued to Sat Sharma.

The Compliance Report further says that the premises under occupation of Sat Sharma has been sealed on December 30, 2024.

It is worthwhile to mention herein that the Division Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh had expressed its displeasure/anguish vide its orders dated November 7, 2024 and December 12, 2024 and Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. of J&K, Estate Department was specifically directed to file updated status report with regard to occupants namely Kavinder Gupta, Ex-Dy. CM, Sat Sharma, President of BJP(J&K), Surinder Ambardar (Ex-MLC) and Zaffar Iqbal Manhas (Ex-MLC) whose names

**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 14.7°C Min: 7.4°C  
Humidity  
Max: 100 Min: 80  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 5.4°C Min: -2.6°C  
Humidity  
Max: 100 Min: 79  
Sunset : 17:32 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:33 Hours

## BJP's 2014 mandate-powerful expression of Hindu disenchant for centuries

**JAMMU:** BJP's massive 2014 Mandate was more than just an electoral victory-it was a powerful expression of Hindu disenchantment rooted in centuries of subjugation and persecution. This disenchantment, which had simmered for generations, became more pronounced post-1947, as Hindus felt betrayed by their own leaders in independent India. Rather than undoing the historical and barbaric wrongs of the Mughal and British eras, the Indian National Congress-the so-called flag bearer of the country's freedom movement-under first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, in fact, deepened the wounds of the majority community. Instead of addressing their aspirations, Congress policies often alienated them, leaving nationalists feeling ignored, marginalized, and betrayed. This betrayal of nearly seven decades has been the Mantra of BJP's unprecedented win under Narendra Modi, bagging 282 Lok Sabha seats out of 543.

Indians, irrespective of religion, region or caste, had expected that independent India would witness restoration of national pride and heritage but the

years following proved to be a nightmare for the majority community. While a particular section flourished population wise and schemes tailored for their welfare, the dwindling Hindus saw the policies of successive Congress governments perpetuating their marginalization. What could be the worst case of appeasement than a sitting Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh saying on December 8, plans for minorities, particularly Muslims, must have the first claim on resources so that benefits of development reach them equitably. Earlier, under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government in 1986, the Shah Bano case manifested in the passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, which diluted the judgment of the Supreme Court and restricted the right of Muslim divorcees to alimony from their former husbands for only 90 days after the divorce. To cite few other injustices meted out to the majority community, the Congress enacted the Places of Worship Act, 1991; freezing the status of all religious sites and denying Hindus the opportunity to reclaim their heritage, while leaving the door open for Muslim claims under the Wakf Act, without any timeline. The cruel fallout of this Act of appeasement can be illustrated by the recent claim of the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board about ownership of the 1500 year old Manediyavalli

Chandrashekhara Swami Temple in Tiruchenturai village in Trichy district. On the contrary, Hindus cannot seek restoration of temples destroyed by Mughals for construction of mosques as the Act, inter-alia, prohibits conversion of any place of worship and to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15th day of August, 1947. Hindu temples were brought under government control, with their revenues often diverted for secular purposes. Mosques and churches, however, were left untouched, creating an impression of systematic bias against the majority community.

The Congress appeasement crossed limits by adopting policies that jeopardized the national security with successful attempts made to shield those accused in the Godhra train attack and downplaying terror incidents like the Mumbai attacks, notwithstanding the arrest of Ajmal Kasab of Pakistan. To shield the perpetrators and to generate a narrative of saffron terror by the UPA, a combination of pseudo seculars and left liberals under the Congress patronage worked overtime. Who doesn't know the Congress policies focusing on dividing the Hindu community along caste lines, weakening their collective political voice while consolidating minority vote banks. The vote jihad in last year's

Lok Sabha elections was more a reality than a fiction as being described by the Opposition. The illegal influx and settlement of illegal immigrants, particularly Bangladeshi and Rohingya Muslims, causing demographic shifts, is a blot on the so-called secularists, who have done a huge harm to the nation that is beyond repair. They became part of the conspiracy to cause demographic changes, like in Jammu where a Non Governmental Organization from Kashmir facilitated the settlement of Rohingyas in Hindu dominated Jammu rather than the Muslim exclusive Valley.

These few of the many other acts of omission and commission against Hindu interest enraged the majority community so much that they saw a ray of hope in Narendra Modi, who emerged as the face of a new political narrative-one that promised to restore Hindu pride and undo the historical wrongs committed by the Congress and left liberals. The people in large numbers voted massively for the BJP that resonated deeply with a Hindu majority yearning for recognition, empowerment, and justice during the election campaign. The BJP won and is holding the rein of power in New Delhi for over a decade now. The question arises, has it truly delivered?

(TO BE CONTINUED)