

03 Pak trying to push more terrorists across LoC during winter season: DGP

09 Kingpin including 4 arrested; 1,390 Kg stolen iron bars recovered

10 33rd Junior Volleyball Championship from Dec 4

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Azad urges Centre to bring bill to restore J&K's statehood along with 'job, land' safeguards



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a public gathering at Poonch.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Apprehending loss of "jobs and land" to non-locals till the Supreme Court rules in a petition challenging the abrogation of Article 370, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday asked the government to bring a bill in Parliament and restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Without naming National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah who recently criticised the Congress'

silence on Article 370, Azad said although the case is before the Supreme Court, he had opposed the move as "unconstitutional" in Parliament several times as the leader of the opposition.

He asked all parties to unite and put pressure on the government to announce the much delayed assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir within a week after the restoration of statehood.

"Chief ministership for me is meaningless at this moment when we have the

biggest issue of safeguarding our land and jobs. The case with regard to Article 370 is pending before the Supreme Court and nobody knows when its judgment will come but till then we cannot wait and see our jobs and land go to people not from Jammu and Kashmir," Azad said, addressing a party convention in the border district of Poonch.

He said the prime minister and the Union home minister have already promised the restoration of statehood to

Jammu and Kashmir, and therefore, the government should bring a bill in Parliament for this and also include in it constitutional safeguards to protect land and jobs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad said elections can happen immediately after the winter ends as the security situation has improved.

Besides the apex court, only the BJP-led government can reverse its decision.

"I do not see it good to make any false promises to the people. We cannot promise that we will form the next government at the Centre with 300 MPs and will do it (revoke the August 5, 2019 decision)," the veteran Congress leader said.

All opposition parties need to stand and press for elections soon after the end of the winter as a popular government alone can address the issues being faced by the people of Jammu

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Jaish's IED expert, Pak terrorist killed in Pulwama encounter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Army secured a major breakthrough on Wednesday when it killed Yasir Parray, an IED expert of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group, and a Pakistani terrorist in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said.

The nerve-wracking operation began at Parray's home village, Qasabgar, at 11 pm on Tuesday after the Army received an input from police about presence of terrorists in the locality.

Col A K Singh, Commanding Officer of the 44 Rashtriya Rifles, led the operation and ensured that there was no collateral damage, the officials said.

The presence of two terrorists was confirmed at 3 am as they were hiding in a cavity created between the roof and the top floor of a building, they said.

Parray, who carried a cash reward, was behind the improvised explosive device



Traffic cop injured in Srinagar terror attack

SRINAGAR: A traffic policeman was injured in a terror attack on Wednesday in Rajouri Kadal area of the city, officials said. They said the policeman, Mohammad Abdullah, was shot at by the terrorists from close range while he was on duty. Abdullah has been taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, they said, adding further details were awaited.

(IED) blast on the multi-vehicle patrol of the 44 Rashtriya Rifles in June, 2019, when it was moving on the Aihul-Pulwama road. Two soldiers were killed and 17 were injured in the inci-

dent. An emotional Col Singh, while talking to reporters after the incident in 2019, had said, "You (terrorists) can hide anywhere under the sun, we will find you, hunt

you... because we never forget, never forgive."

On Wednesday, while supervising the entire operation, Col Singh summoned Parray's father to make the terrorist surrender but it could not be achieved because of heavy firing from the foreign militant, who was identified as Furqan, the officials said.

Parray was instrumental in guiding various groups of Jaish terror group in South Kashmir and he had climbed the hierarchy ladder of the banned terror group swiftly after joining them in late 2018.

Two AK series rifles, two UBGL along with 12 grenades, several AK magazines and rounds were recovered from the area after the operation ended at 8.45 am on Wednesday, the officials added.

According to Srinagar-based Army spokesperson, the Jammu and

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Terror incidents decline in J&K after abrogation of Art 370: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The number of terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir during a period of 841 days after Article 370 was revoked dipped to 496 from the 843 cases reported in a same span of time prior to the abrogation, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said during April 16, 2017 to August 04, 2019, 843 terrorist incidents were reported in Jammu and Kashmir in which 86 civilians and 78 army personnel were killed.

During the period August

05, 2019 to November 22, 2021 (841 days after the abrogation), 496 terrorist incidents have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir in which 79 civilians and 45 army personnel have been killed, he said.

"The overall statistics shows that there has been decline in terrorist attacks on civilians and army in Jammu and Kashmir," Rai said.

In response to a separate question, Rai said during the last 12 months from December 2020 to November 2021 (up to November 26), 14 terrorists have been apprehended and 165

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Art 370 was in BJP's manifesto but no logic for division, downgrading of J&K: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said revocation of Article 370 was in BJP's manifesto but there is no logic behind withdrawal of statehood and division of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also accused the BJP of misleading the country by "false propaganda" to justify its action of August 5, 2019 and said the security situation has deteriorated to such an extent that "one cannot feel safe in any part of Kashmir owing to growing militancy which was evident



from the selective killings including that of Kashmiri Pandits in the recent past".

The former chief minister and National Conference vice president was speaking at a public meeting in Bhaderwah town of Doda district on the

penultimate day of his week-long tour of Chenab valley in Jammu division.

He urged the locals to maintain communal harmony and brotherhood to "frustrate conspiracies of those dividing the people on the basis of religion" to win elections.

"The National Conference lost the 2014 assembly elections and the BJP took advantage and came to power through the back door and then pulled down the PDP-led government followed by what it was planning (to abrogate Article 370)," he said.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 234 fresh cases of coronavirus on Wednesday, taking the infection tally to 3,37,086, while one fresh death due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 116 were from the Jammu division and 118 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 63 cases followed by 28 cases in Baramulla district.

There are 1,687 active cases in the Union Territory,

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J&K logs 234 new COVID cases, Ladakh 38

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15 SDRF Jammu personnel promoted to next rank

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Fifteen HG/CD & SDRF personnel were on Wednesday promoted to the next rank by the Departmental Promotion Committee which met today here at Headquarters of HG/CD & SDRF J&K under the chairmanship of Danesh Rana, Commandant General Homeguards, Civil Defence & SDRF J&K. The proceedings of the meeting

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Srinagar records coldest night of season

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature settled below the freezing point across Kashmir, with several weather stations in the valley including Srinagar city recording the coldest night of the season so far, officials said on Wednesday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, down

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Cycle tracks with state-of-art facilities in Jammu soon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Five cycle tracks with state-of-art facilities will become a reality soon as the Jammu Smart City Limited has expedited the pace of the project and awarded the work to the contractor, an official said on Wednesday.

Jammu, the city of temples, was selected in round-3 of the Centre's Smart Cities Mission in June 2017, by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Jammu Smart City Ltd (JSCL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), was constituted in August 2017 by the

J&K government for the implementation of smart city development projects in Jammu City.

The project for setting up cycle tracks under Smart City Mission of worth Rs 2.20 Crore will be started in coming days as the contract has been awarded to the vendor. The work will be completed in a stipulated time frame, the JSCL official said.

He said the modern cycle tracks were proposed at feasible places within the Municipal limits of Jammu to meet the aspiration of citizens as cycling has become a

very good, pollution-free, and feasible way for exercise for all age groups.

The five cycle tracks will be established at Green Belt Park and along storm Water Drain in Channi Himmat Colony, along the Storm Water Drain of Sainik Colony, Playground of Government Gandhi Memorial Science College and Sport Stadium of Gole Gujral (Marh), the official said.

The official said the signages and markings on the tracks will inform cyclists as well as other road

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Two SHO's among 14 cops transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Chandan Kohli on Wednesday transferred two Station House Officers (SHOs) among 11 officers.

As per order, Inspector Mohd Shoket has been transferred from Police Station Nagrota to DPL Jammu; Inspector Vishav Partap from Police Station Kanachak to Police Station Nagrota as SHO; Inspector Kunal Singh Jamwal from Police Post Jourian to Police Station Kanachak as SHO; Inspector Anil Kumar from Police Post Phallain

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Don't leave High Courts at State Govts' mercy for infrastructure funds, SC tells Centre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Wednesday asked the Centre not to leave high courts at state governments' mercy for funding of judicial infrastructure and to develop a centralised mechanism where money goes directly to them as per needs and requisitions.

The apex court also said that at times judiciary is unable to utilise all funds allocated to it, and commented in the lighter vein, "We can say judges are misers. They don't know how to spend..."

The top court underlined further that at the time when



the government is talking about ease of doing business, speedy disposal of corporate cases, settlement of disputes through arbitration and inviting foreign direct investment, it is imperative that

the Centre has a centralised mechanism for development of the infrastructure and allocation of funds.

It appreciated the Centre's efforts of taking into its hand the computerisation of judiciary, as funds have not been a problem, 17,000 courts have been computerised and judicial officers have been given laptops to ensure seamless connectivity.

It said the Centre can contemplate creating an umbrella body which will look at creation of judicial infrastructure as required. A bench of Justices D Y

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Govt decides not to resume scheduled int'l flights from Dec 15

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday decided not to resume scheduled international flights from December 15, less than a week after announcing the decision in the wake of rising concerns over the COVID variant Omicron.

Aviation watchdog DGCA said the effective date for resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services will be notified in due course. Scheduled international flights remain suspended since March 23, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The latest move also comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 27 asked officials to review the plans for eas-



ing international travel restrictions amid concerns over Omicron.

In a circular on Wednesday, DGCA said that in view of the evolving global scenario with the emergence of new Variants of Concern, the situation is being watched closely in consultation with all stakeholders.

"...an appropriate decision indicating the effective date of resumption of scheduled commercial international

passenger services shall be notified in due course," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

The watchdog also referred to its circular issued on November 26 wherein it was decided that scheduled international flights will resume from December 15.

On November 28, a day after the Prime Minister's directions regarding the easing of international travel

curbs, the government had said the decision to resume the services will be reviewed.

While no cases of Omicron have been reported in India so far, the authorities have put in place stricter norms for international passengers. On November 29, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the situation was being closely monitored and reviewed in consultation with other ministries regarding "any further decision" on resuming scheduled international passenger services.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Scindia had said the decision to resume the flights from December 15 was taken after recognising the increased vaccination coverage across the

globe, changing nature of the pandemic and considering the health protocols, which have been put in place for international arrivals.

"However, in view of the evolving global scenario with the emergence of new variants of concern, the situation is being closely monitored and reviewed in consultation with other Ministries, with regard to taking any further decision on the issue," the minister had said.

Currently, international passenger flights are being operated under bilateral air bubble arrangements with various countries in a restricted manner.

As of November 24, India had formalised air bubble arrangements with 31 countries.

Migration of KP families part of 'movement of officials', winter vacations in edu institutes: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday said the recent migration of 115 Kashmiri Pandit families, mostly women and children, from Kashmir to Jammu was a "part of movement of officials" and due to winter vacations in educational institutions.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai was responding in the Rajya Sabha to a question by Naranbhai J Rathwa of the Congress who asked the government whether many Hindus and Sikhs were leaving Srinagar due to rising worries about their safety among other details.

"In October, 2021, approximately 115 Kashmiri Pandit families, mostly women and

children, living in Kashmir have moved to Jammu region. These families are of government employees, many of whom, move to Jammu in winter as part of movement of officials and the winter vacation in education institutions," Rai said in a written reply.

He said an ex-gratia of Rs one lakh is paid to the next of kin of the civilians killed in militancy-related violence under an existing scheme of the Jammu and Kashmir government.

"In addition, Rs 5 lakh is given under the 'Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims/Family of Victims' of Terrorist/Communal/ LWE Violence and Cross

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 23.4°C Min: 8.8°C

Humidity

Max: 84 Min: 72

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 11.1°C Min: -2.5°C

Humidity

Max: 96 Min: 73

Sunset : 17:26 Hours

Sunrise : 07:16 Hours