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Despite all its efforts, Pakistan cannot take an inch of J&K land: Azad

'Talks with Pak decision should be left to BJP led Centre'



Senior Congress leader & Former J&K CM Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a gathering at Khour on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pakistan cannot take an inch of Jammu and Kashmir's territory despite all its efforts, senior Congress leader and former J&K CM Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Sunday, lauding the security forces and the people of the union territory for fighting Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the past over three decades.

Conference's and the PDP's persistent demand for holding dialogue with Pakistan to restore peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Azad said the decision on holding talks should be left to the BJP-led Centre.

Addressing a public meeting at Khour near the International Border in Jammu, Azad said border residents are the guardians of Indian borders and

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Citizens to get Fard, Mutation online soon: Com Secy Revenue

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The citizens in Jammu and Kashmir would get 'Fard' (revenue extract) and mutation online soon, a senior government official said on Sunday.

Commissioner Secretary, Revenue, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, said the department is in the process of making all their services available online through a single portal, installing auto-mutation process in the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS), linking land records with other services,

process of providing Fard and Mutation online.

"The aim is to minimise human interface and increase convenience to the citizens," he said.

Within a couple of months of its launch, 'Apni Zameen Apni Nigrani', the land record portal launched by the Revenue department has crossed more than four lakh visitors.

The one of its kind initiative, wherein citizens can login and see the status of their land records, Jamabandi, Girdawari,

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422 Omicron cases in India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As many as 422 Omicron cases have been detected across 17 states and union territories in India so far and 130 of these people have recovered or migrated, according to Union health ministry data updated on Sunday.

Maharashtra has recorded the highest number of Omicron cases at 108, followed by Delhi at 79, Gujarat 43, Telangana 41, Kerala 38, Tamil Nadu 34 and Karnataka 31.

With 6,987 more people testing positive for COVID-19 in a day, India's total caseload increased to 3,47,86,802, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The death toll has climbed to 4,79,682 with 162 new fatalities, the data stated.

The daily rise in coronavirus infections has remained below 15,000

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 14.0°C Min: 8.8°C

Humidity

Max: 83 Min: 82

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 5.1°C Min: -1.8°C

Humidity

Max: 90 Min: 88

Sunset : 17:34 Hours

Sunrise : 07:32 Hours

ISJK terrorist involved in ASI's assassination killed in Anantnag

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A terrorist belonging to the Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK) outfit, who was involved in the assassination of a police officer, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag, police said on Sunday.

The encounter at K Kalan, Srigufwara area of the south Kashmir district began late on Saturday night.

It was the third encounter between security forces and terrorists in south Kashmir

Terrorists hurl grenade; 2 cops injured

SRINAGAR: Two policemen were injured after terrorists hurled a grenade at a police party in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

The incident occurred at Pulwama's Main Chowk, they said. Two police personnel were injured in the explosion. They have been hospitalised, the officials said.

on Saturday. Two terrorists

each were killed in the gun-fights at Shopian and Pulwama earlier on Saturday.

A police official said security forces launched a cordon and search operation in K Kalan, Srigufwara area of Anantnag following inputs about the presence of terrorists there.

The search operation turned into an encounter after the hiding terrorists fired on the forces, who retaliated, he said.

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Winter helicopter service in Ladakh from Dec 29

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL (LADAKH): The winter helicopter service in Ladakh will commence on December 29, an official said on Sunday.

During winter, Ladakh generally remains cut-off from the rest of the country due to closure of the Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall.

The flight will start from Leh to Kargil, and then from Kargil to Srinagar, and vice versa: Srinagar-Kargil-Leh, the official said. Online bookings for the winter rides have opened, he said.

Major fire breaks out at Bagad Mandi in Jammu; over 50 shops gutted

Goods worth lakhs damaged; family members of shop-owners seek compensation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A major fire broke out at Bagad Mandi near Trikuta Nagar on Sunday night, causing damage to over 50 shops and destroying property worth lakhs of rupees.

Fire and Emergency services immediately rushed half a dozen fire tenders to douse the leaping flames in Bagad Mandi at Trikuta Nagar.

An official of the fire and emergency services said

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Flames engulfed makeshift shops near Trikuta Nagar locality on Sunday night.

Delimitation Row: Dec 29, Jan 1 protests in Srinagar a blessing in disguise for Jammu

■ PROF HARI OM

JAMMU: On December 14, members of Gupkar gang, including its head Farooq Abdullah, number two Mehbooba Mufti, MY Tarigami and Muzaffar Shah, met at their headquarters (Farooq Abdullah's Gupkar Road residence, Srinagar), sung the same old irritating and divisive special status song like Jinnah used to sing the Pakistani song, discussed their political future vis-à-vis India, abused the Modi Government and resolved to "reach out to Jammu to take its people on board for the (anti-India and pro-Article 370 and pro-Article 35A) campaign.

"As far as we are concerned, including PAGD and other constituents, there is a strong feeling that there will be no forward movement without representation from Jammu, or without any credible dialogue with the cross section of people including civil society in Jammu," said spokesperson of the gang CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami after the meeting. "Kashmir cannot march ahead without Jammu and likewise Jammu too can't

ignore Kashmir and Ladakh. We have to move together over the issue as this is for us an article of faith...We have to identify the areas where we can agree and we have every right to disagree as well. We must explore those possibilities where there are some sort of commonalities which can be abiding force for all of us to move together so that some relief is provided to the people of Jammu as well as Kashmir".

They did come to Jammu on December 21, a day after the new Delimitation Commission shared its 47-seats-for-Kashmir and 43-seats-for-Jammu proposal with all the five associate members (Lok Sabha MPs), including MoS in PMO Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma (BJP) and Farooq Abdullah, MA Lone and Hasnain Masoodi (NC). All the Gupkaris were seething with anger.

What did they do in Jammu? They dismissed with contempt the Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai-headed Delimitation Commission's proposal. They denounced it as biased, unfair and anti-Kashmiri Muslim. They abused the

Narendra Modi Government and accused it of hatching a conspiracy after a conspiracy against Kashmiri Muslims calculated to "dis-empowering" them and installing a Hindu from Jammu as CM of the "Muslim-majority State". They charged the Modi Government with subverting the concept of federalism, Gupkar-type, nay Jinnah-type. They used all kinds of invectives and epithets against the RSS and the BJP and described them as the biggest enemies of Kashmiri and other Muslims. They pitted the non-existent Paharis in Rajouri-Poonch belt in Jammu and Baramulla-Kupwara belt in Kashmir against the Scheduled Tribes, including Gujjars and Bakarwals (Muslims) and Gadis (Hindus). They sought to put the Pathowari-speaking people in these areas on a warpath by telling them that the Delimitation Commission had ignored them and not considered their claim and proposed nine seats (10%) exclusively for the STs in the 90-member House. They made it loud and clear that they will accept the Delimitation Commission's

report only if it was based on the 2011 (fudged) census figures and that they will approach the Supreme Court of India against Delimitation Commission's proposals if it failed to consider, accommodate and appreciate their stand on delimitation in J&K. (Under the law, the recommendations of Delimitation Commission can't be challenged in any court of law.) What these Gupkaris said was self-explanatory and, hence, requires no further elucidation.

But the uncouth, uncivilized, undemocratic, insensitive, provocative and essentially separatist and divisive Gupkaris didn't just stop here. They went several steps further and announced in Jammu itself that they will hold a demonstration in Srinagar on January 1, 2022 against the Delimitation Commission and the Modi Government, which proposed to increase the number of seats for Jammu from 37 to 43 and for Kashmir from 46 to 47. The JK Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari also decided to pursue the Gupkaris' line. It announced a protest in Srinagar against

the Delimitation proposal on December 29.

What exactly did the Gupkaris and the Bukharis tell to the people of Jammu province, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Jains and about 1.5 million Hindu-Sikh refugees from Pakistan, PoJK and Kashmir itself, all victims of jihad? They in a most shameless manner told them that the CM of J&K always was a Muslim from Kashmir and this top executive office was the sole preserve of Kashmir; that the people of Jammu province have to groan under the Kashmiri yoke; that they consider their followers and cadres in Jammu province as their slaves; and that they and Kashmir were the only two factors in the UT of J&K, which the Modi Government must recognize.

And, what they said in Jammu must be taken by the people of the marginalized, ignored, discriminated against and enslaved people of Jammu province to mean a blessing in disguise. Indeed, the December 29

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