

## 03 CMD launches J&K Bank mPay Delight

## 09 Gang of burglars busted; 7 arrested, stolen property worth lakhs recovered

## 10 Dr Samanta nominated to CAVA as Board of Administration member

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# Why there was no peace in J&K when Art 370 was in place: Amit Shah

## ‘Kashmir witnessing peace, investment, tourists’

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Kashmir was witnessing peace, good business investment and influx of tourists post the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

"Article 370 was in place for decades but was there peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asked.

Shah made these remarks during an interaction at a summit here, referring to a statement by former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah who had said that the government will not be able to bring peace in the union territory until Article 370 is restored.

"There was Article 370 for the last 75 years. Why was there no peace? If there is a relation between peace and Article 370, was the Article not in place in 1990? It was there in 1990 why there was no peace? Even if we include figures of targeted killings, we are not even close to 10 per cent. This means there is peace," Shah said at the event where he also delivered the keynote address.

Earlier in his address, Shah said no one believed that Article 370 and Article



35-A could ever be abrogated, and he referred to a conversation with his English professor who had been maintaining that the promise of removing Article 370 by the BJP will be passed on as it is to the next generation.

"I am happy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi abrogated Article 370 from the Constitution on August 5, 2019. Kashmir is at peace now, investment is taking place, tourists are visiting and Jammu and Kashmir is gradu-

ally looking to stand united with the rest of the country," Shah said.

Article 370, a temporary provision in the Constitution, gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir while Article 35-A prohibited people from the rest of India to buy properties in the erstwhile state.

Both provisions were abrogated on August 5, 2019 and the state was divided into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Shah said a common statement was issued against him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi that curfew was imposed for so long in J&K and Internet services were blocked in Jammu and Kashmir.

No one believed that Article 370 and 35A can be repealed but Prime Minister Narendra Modi did it in 2019, he said.

"I can say that there is peace now in Kashmir, investment is coming and tourists are flocking."

"Kashmir slowly is getting back to normal to stand in unity with the country," he said.

"When I went there and asked youths if we had lifted curfew, who would have lost lives? There

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## Vaishno Devi pilgrims urged to observe CAB

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid growing cases of COVID-19 and the concern over its new strain Omicron, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) on Saturday appealed to devotees to strictly adhere to COVID-appropriate behaviour (CAB).

Every day, thousands of pilgrims from across the country visit the holy shrine atop Trikuta hills in

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## Railway guard escapes terrorist attack in Pulwama

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists on Saturday fired on a railway guard in Pulwama district, and he escaped the attack unhurt, officials said. The guard was fired upon by terrorists near Panzgam in Avantipora area of the south Kashmir district, they said. The guard escaped unhurt, the officials said. The area has been cordoned off and a hunt has been launched to nab the attackers, they said.

# LG directs health officials to ensure utilisation of full capacity of RT-PCR testing, vaccination

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Saying that intensive testing, containment, and enhanced surveillance are required in areas reporting higher Covid cases, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday directed the Health officials to ensure utilization of full capacity of RT-PCR testing and vaccination.

While chairing the meetings of Covid Task Force and DCs, SPs, the Lt Governor observed that since WHO has declared Omicron as a 'Variant of Concern', the health officials and people must be more proactive.

Sinha reviewed the COVID-19 situation in Jammu and Kashmir and discussed preventive measures to be implemented against the emerging scenario.

Exhorting the Divisional commissioners for strict implementation of the testing and quarantine of travellers from foreign countries,



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing J&K's COVID-19 situation.

the Lt Governor asked them to deploy Nodal officers for monitoring all international arrivals and proper testing of travelers.

The DCs were directed to intensify awareness campaigns and strict enforcement of Covid protocol, masking, and social distancing.

The Lt Governor said that proper awareness at pan-chayat level should be organized with the help of members of PRIs. He termed the Covid Appropriate Behaviour as absolutely essential and critical, espe-

cially with the reports of new mutation.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners to bring the number of due second doses to zero.

Instructions were also issued to the Superintendents of Police for ensuring strict following of CAB, and imposing fines for violation of covid protocols.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on

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## Over 202 new COVID cases in J&K, 27 in Ladakh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 202 fresh COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the infection count to 3,37,646, while no death due to the virus were reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Eighty-eight of the new cases were from the Jammu division and 114 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 49 new cases, followed by 18 cases in Baramulla district.

There are 1,731 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients stands

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## LeT terrorist arrested in Budgam

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist was arrested on Saturday and arms and ammunition were recovered from his possession in Budgam district, police said.

Acting on a specific input regarding the movement of terrorists in Poshkar area of Budgam, security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation, a police spokesman said.

During the search operation, the joint team arrested an active terrorist linked with the proscribed terror outfit LeT, he said.

The spokesman identified the arrested as Ab Hameed Nath, a resident of Pethzanigam Beerwah, Budgam in central Kashmir.

Incriminating materials, including a pistol and a magazine, five pistol rounds and a Chinese grenade,

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 25.7°C Min: 13.4°C

Humidity

Max: 74 Min: 61

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 12.2°C Min: -0.7°C

Humidity

Max: 87 Min: 71

Sunset : 17:25 Hours

Sunrise : 07:17 Hours

# Restore J&K's statehood before assembly elections: Azad



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

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The real 'Jehad' is to fight against poverty and unemployment, rather than against any leader, party or religion, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday.

Addressing a public rally here, he reiterated the demand for restoration of statehood of Jammu and Kashmir before assembly elections, saying the bureaucracy is no match to popular rule in fulfilling the aspira-

tions of the people.

He said the people of the country are suffering due to the price hike of essential commodities and the Congress has been fighting over it within and outside parliament.

Jehad (holy war) is not fighting against another religion. The real 'Jehad' is to wipe out poverty and unemployment which is our biggest enemy, rather than any leader or party, Azad said.

The former chief minister said that he does not consider any leader or party as his enemy.

There has been a spurt in the prices of fuel and other daily use items including vegetables and pulses. The domestic gas was available to the people for Rs 400 during the Congress rule, but now the price has gone up nearly three times, bringing misery to the commoners, Azad said.

He said he is a less politician and a more

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# ACB present charge-sheet against 2 Patwaris among 14 for fraud

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has produced charge-sheet against Bashir Ahmad, Altaf Hussain Malik, the then Patwaris Halqa Bain Bajalta Jammu, Malook Ali, the then Forest Guard & 12 others in the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Jammu.

As per an official spokesperson, the sleuths of the ACB presented charge-sheet in FIR No. 05/2013 under section 5(1) (d) read with 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt.

2006 BK, Sections 420,467,468 and 120-B RPC, in the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Jammu against (1) Bashir Ahmad; (2) Altaf Hussain Malik; both the then Patwaris Halqa Bain Bajalta Jammu; (3) Malook Ali, the then Forest Guard; (4) Ch Aslam Din, the then Tehsildar (now expired) and beneficiaries namely (5) Javid Ahmed, son of Abdul Gani Gujjar, resident of village Dwara Jammu; (6) Wali Mohd, son of Nek Mohd

Gujjar, resident of village Dwara Jammu; (7) Jamat Ali, son of Sardar Ali Gujjar, resident of village Dwara Jammu; (8) Arfakat Hussain, son of Haji Mian Yaqoob, resident of village Dwara Jammu; (9) Mohd Idrees, son of Mohi ud Din, resident of Village Dwara Jammu (now expired); (10) Hassan Mohd, son of Kheja Gujjar, resident of Dwara (now expired); (11) Mohd Rafiq, son of Gazi Moulvi Gujjar, resident of

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## Over 1 crore COVID vaccine doses administered in India in one day

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The number of Covid vaccine doses administered in a day crossed one crore on Saturday after more than two months, taking the total jabs given so far to over 127.5 crore, amid fears of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

Four cases of the Omicron variant have been reported in India so far.

The vaccination has gathered pace in the country over the last one week after

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# Abdullah, Mufti, Gandhi families have looted J&K for 70 years: Chugh



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh along with other leaders during the workers' meeting in Jammu.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh Saturday slammed the Abdullah, Mufti and Gandhi families to have played havoc with J&K.

Addressing party workers here Chugh said people here now want to know how

much the three families have looted the union territory.

Chugh said the three families have pocketed crores of rupees which were meant for the growth and development of J&K and now are trying to fool the people.

Whenever public talks about the corruption of these three families they start looking at Pakistan and talk about secessionist activities which they have covertly supported in last 70 years.

The BJP, he said, was determined to make J&K a

leading state of the country and would transform the face of it soon.

BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina, Senior BJP leader & former minister Devender Singh Rana and other party workers and leaders were also present on the occasion.

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