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SC to deliver verdict on Dec 11 on pleas challenging abrogation of Article 370



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its verdict on December 11 on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the cause list of December 11, Monday, uploaded on the apex court website, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief

Justice D Y Chandrachud would deliver the verdict.

The other members of the bench are Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai and Surya Kant.

The apex court had on September 5 reserved its verdict in the matter after a marathon 16-day hearing.

During the course of the hearing, the top court had heard Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior advo-

icates Harish Salve, Rakesh Dwivedi, V Giri and others on behalf of the Centre and the intervenors defending the abrogation of Article 370.

Senior advocates including Kapil Sibal, Gopal Subramaniam, Rajeev Dhavan, Zaffar Shah, Dushyant Dave and others had argued on behalf of the petitioners.

The lawyers had dwelt on various issues including the constitutional validity of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate the provision, the validity of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which split the erstwhile state into two Union Territories, challenges to imposition of Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir on June 20, 2018 and imposition of President's rule in the erstwhile state on December 19, 2018 and its extension on July 3, 2019.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that divided the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

5 killed in Ganderbal as cab falls from mountain highway

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A cab taking a group of persons from Srinagar to Kargil fell from a mountain highway in the Ganderbal district on Thursday, killing five persons, officials said.

The accident took place in the Sonamarg area where the passenger cab skidded off the mountainous Zojila Pass road on the Srinagar-Leh highway due to slippery road conditions caused by recent snowfall, the officials said.

They said five persons on board the vehicle died in the accident.

All the victims hailed from Kargil and were identified as Mohammad Hussain, Shabir Hussain, Mohammad Akbar, Mohammad Amin and Abdul Hadi, they added.

This is the second major accident along the Zojila Pass on the Srinagar-Leh highway in three days.

Five persons, including four tourists from Kerala, died while three others

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2015 attack on BSF convoy: NIA attaches properties of 2 LeT operatives

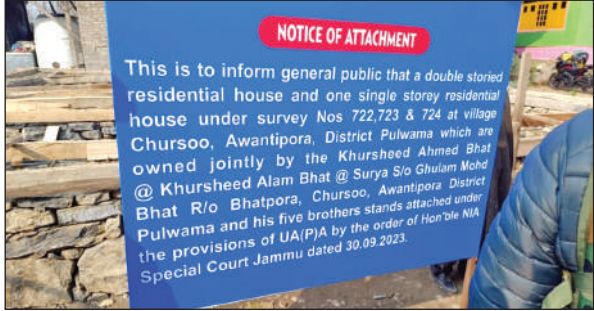
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency on Thursday attached the properties of two key Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives for their involvement in the 2015 terror attack on a BSF convoy in Udhampur district.

Two BSF personnel were killed and 13 others injured in the attack, which took place on August 5, 2015 on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway in Narsol village of Udhampur district. One terrorist was killed and another, identified as Naveed, was arrested in the retaliatory action by the security forces.

"The two accused whose properties have been attached today were also subsequently arrested and are currently undergoing trial in the NIA special court, Jammu," the anti-terror probe agency said.

As per the NIA investigations, the duo -- identified as



Fayaz Ahmed Itoo alias Fayaz Khar and Khursheed Ahmed Bhat alias Surya -- are members of the banned Pakistan-backed terror organisation LeT, the agency said.

All the prime accused in the case (RC-08/2015/NIA/DLI) have been charge-sheeted and are under trial under various provisions of Ranbir Penal Code, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act 1946, Passport (Entry into India) Act 1920 and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967.

In the instant case, four immovable properties, that include a single storey residential house belonging to Fayaz Ahmed Itoo, in village Khudwani, Tehsil Qaimoh in district Kulgam and a two-storey residential house, along with two plots of land, belonging to Khursheed Ahmed Bhat @ Surya in village Chursoo and Sail, Avantipora, district Pulwama, have been attached under Section 33 (1) of UAPA, 1967, in pursuance of the recent orders of NIA Special Court,

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AAP pushed Punjab to the brink; economy collapsing, gangsters ruling: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday said that the Bhagwant Mann led AAP government has plunged Punjab into an unprecedented crisis. He said Punjab under the AAP government has collapsed economically with law and order in shambles.

The state has been bequeathed to gangsters, who have run amuck, he said, adding that anti-national elements are having a free play in the border state which is a very serious national concern. Financially the state is already under debt to the tune of Rs 4 lakh crores, he said, adding



that the debt is mounting with every passing day.

The state economy is on the verge of becoming bankrupt as the Bhagwant Mann government has failed to mop up resources.

"It has become a mafia government where mining, drug dealers and gangsters are have a good time", Chugh added.

Police Insp Masroor Ahmad succumbs to injuries sustained in Oct terror attack

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Police Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani, who was critically injured when he was shot at by a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist while playing cricket in Srinagar in October, died at AIIMS here Thursday leaving behind his wife who is expecting her first child.

Officials said despite best efforts of the medical team, Wani succumbed to injuries this afternoon.

Son of a retired Police Sub-Inspector, 35-year-old Wani was playing cricket at the Eidgah ground when the lone terrorist fired three shots in



the eye, abdomen and neck from close range on October 29, a Sunday when a number of youngsters were playing the game. Wani's teammates ran after the terrorist but

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LG Sinha pays tribute to martyr Masroor Ahmad

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tribute to the brave martyr of Jammu Kashmir Police, Inspector Masroor Ahmad. He has said, "No words are strong enough to express the pain of losing Inspector

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My child became orphan before being born, says devastated wife

SRINAGAR: "My child became an orphan even before being born," said the inconsolable wife of Inspector Masroor Ahmed Wani, who died in Delhi on Thursday 39 days after he suffered critical wounds in a terrorist attack.

Expecting her first child, she was overwhelmed with grief after getting the tragic news.

It was a sombre atmosphere in the congested colony of Eidgah in the downtown of this city as a multitude of people gathered at the residence of Wani.

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CB arrests Naib Sarpanch among 2 for cheating

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Economics Offences Wing (EOW) of Jammu Crime Branch on Thursday arrested a Naib Sarpanch and a property dealer for cheating a buyer of Rs 27 lakh in a land sale. The Crime Branch sleuths after conducting detailed investigations registered FIR against Naib Sarpanch Rajinder Singh son of Purshtom Singh, resident of R S Pura and Karanjit Singh, property dealer: FIR 85/2023 has been registered against the duo while investigation into the case has been entrusted to DySP Baghwan Dass Dandia. Soon after their arrest, the CB produced both the accused before the court of law for five days police remand.

FCI to be upgraded to IHM in Jammu soon: Bhagat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Food Craft Institute, Jammu, would soon be upgraded as Institute of Hotel Management to cater to requirement of skilled manpower for the industry in the region.

This was informed during the 18th Governing Body meeting of Food Craft Institution, Jammu, held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Commissioner Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Saurabh Bhagat.

It was revealed in the meeting that the proposal, in this



Commissioner Secretary, SDD Saurabh Bhagat chairing 18th Governing Body meeting of Food Craft Institution, Jammu.

regard, has been submitted to the Union Ministry of Tourism for approval.

The meeting accorded approved to purchase of bus for the institute, installation

of rooftop panels and creation of hostel facility within the campus. The Commissioner Secretary appreciated the efforts of

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BJP likely to name central observers for picking new CMs today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BJP is likely to name central observers for electing the leaders of its legislative parties in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan on Friday amid indications that new chief ministers may be named over the weekend.

A senior party leader said the observers for all the three states are expected to be named on Friday. They will then travel to the respective

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CS for focus on agriculture extension, quality inputs to increase productivity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday maintained that the main focus areas for the Department in Agriculture should be on provisioning of quality agricultural inputs like seeds, rootstock, fertilizers, equipments bolstered with agri extension for bringing substantial improvement in the productivity of arable lands.

Reviewing the schemes under implementation in all the sectors like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in the Union Territory, the



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

Chief Secretary observed that these sectors play pivotal role in changing economy for better as it has not yet been harnessed optimally as per our innate potential. There are number of

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) along with HADP currently under implementation that can be game changers in this direction, if implemented

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Cold condition intensify in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Srinagar experienced the coldest night of the season so far as the cold conditions intensified in Kashmir and the minimum temperature across the

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CJ inaugurates first aid awareness camp by IRC at Jammu HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Justice of High Court J&K and Ladakh, N. Kotiswar Singh, on Thursday inaugurated a first aid awareness camp, specifically tailored for advocates, organized by the regional Indian Red Cross Society in collaboration with J&K High Court, Bar Association, Jammu.

Chief Justice along with Justice Tashi Rabastan, M K Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Sanjay Parihar, Principal and District Judge, Jammu in presence of Vikram Sharma, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Parvesh Singh Salaria, General Secretary, J&K and Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT.

The initiative aimed to empower advocates with essential first aid knowledge and skills, fostering a safer and healthier legal community. The event was comprised of informative and interactive sessions



Chief Justice of High Court J&K and Ladakh, N. Kotiswar Singh honoured during inauguration of first aid awareness camp organized by regional IRCs in collaboration with J&K High Court, Bar Association, Jammu.

besides practical demonstrations providing participants with hands-on experience in administering immediate assistance during emergencies.

Large number of Advocates participated in the session.

During the camp, awareness was raised by staff of Indian Red Cross society including Dr. Aasia Noor, Medical Officer, assisted by Kanechan Devi, Sup Pharmacist.

The training session was specifically designed to address scenarios that advocates may encounter in their professional lives in which practical skills, such as basic life support, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and wound care, were emphasized.

General Secretary, IRCS J&K, expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice and President, Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu for their support in making this initiative a huge success. Such collaborative efforts underscore the importance of promoting health and safety awareness across diverse sectors of society during natural and man-made disaster, he asserted.

The first aid awareness camp was supervised by Vironica Marwah, Field Officer, IRCS, J&K-UT, Chetan Misri, Joint Secretary, Utkarsh Pathania, Treasurer and Rohit Sharma, President YLA, Jammu.

Being 'Viksit Bharat Ambassador' ideal way to spread development agenda: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged people to become 'Viksit Bharat Ambassadors', saying it is an ideal way to spread the development agenda and utilise "our energies to fulfill our mission to make India a developed nation".

In a post on X, Modi said 140 crore Indians have shown the world what people-powered development is.

"Being a #ViksitBharatAmbassador is an ideal way to combine our strengths, spread the development agenda and utilise our energies to fulfill

our mission to make India a developed nation," the prime minister said.

"Let us join in this mass movement by signing up on NaMo App, and accepting

the 100 day challenge of performing simple but highly impactful tasks in the Viksit Bharat Ambassador module," he said.

Modi said he looks forward to personally meeting some of the most energetic and bright ambassadors from all walks of life.



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 24.8°C Min: 13.2°C

Humidity
Max: 71 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 12.5°C Min: -2.6°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 74

Sunset : 17:17 Hours
Sunrise : 07:15 Hours