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Centre to consider revoking AFSPA, plans to pull back troops from J&K: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the central government will consider revoking Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Jammu and Kashmir.

In an interview with the JK Media Group, Shah also said the government has plans to pull back troops in the Union Territory (UT) and leave law and order to the Jammu and Kashmir Police alone.

"We have plans to pull back troops and leave law and order to the Jammu and Kashmir Police alone. Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir police was not trusted but today they are leading the operations," he said.

On the controversial AFSPA, the home minister said, "We will also think of revoking AFSPA."

The AFSPA gives the armed forces personnel, operating in the disturbed



► "Under shadow of Art 370 separatist ideology was shaped in J&K; youth were dragged into terrorism"

► "Assembly elections will be held in J&K before September"

areas, sweeping powers to search, arrest and to open fire if they deem it necessary for "the maintenance of public order".

An area or district is notified as disturbed under the AFSPA to facilitate the operations of the armed forces.

Shah had earlier said the AFSPA has been removed in 70 per cent areas in the northeastern states even though it is in force in J&K.

There have been demands from various organisations and individuals in J&K and the northeastern states to

revoke the AFSPA.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that under the shadows of Article 370, a separatist ideology was shaped and the youths of Jammu and Kashmir were dragged into terrorism.

"Pakistan misused this situation and in the past 4 decades, more than 40,000 youths lost their lives," the Home Minister said. Shah also said the Assembly elections will be held in J&K before September.

"Enshrining democracy in Jammu and Kashmir is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise and it will be fulfilled. However, this democracy will not be confined to three families alone and will be a people's democracy," he said.

The Supreme Court had directed to conduct the assembly polls in the UT before September. On the issues that have

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CJ administers oath of office to Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N.Kotishwar Singh administered the Oath of office to Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in the Chief Justice's Court Room here on Monday.

The Oath taking ceremony was physically attended at Srinagar by Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazni, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and virtually from Jammu by



Chief Justice N.Kotishwar Singh administering Oath of office to Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani as Additional Judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary and Justice Rajesh Sekhri.

The proceedings of the oath taking ceremony were con-

ducted by Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Shahzad Azeem, who read the contents of the notification received from Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Justice

(Appointments Division) and the Warrant of Appointment issued by the President of India and the Letter of Authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorising the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, to administer the Oath of office to the newly appointed Judge.

The ceremony was also attended by the Former Judges of the High Court, Advocate General, J&K, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Srinagar, Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, District Judges posted at Srinagar Headquarter, members of various Bars,

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PDD warns employees against demonstrations strike in light of SC ruling, ECR

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department has warned departmental employees against demonstrations or strikes, citing the government instructions, J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules (ECR) and ruling of the Supreme Court.

In an instruction circular issued here on Tuesday, (circular no. 03-JK PDD of 2024 dated: 26-03-2024), the department said 'it has come to notice that some employees are resorting to demonstrations and strikes in favour of certain assumed demands, which is totally illegal'.

Citing the government instructions, J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules and ruling of the Supreme Court for dealing with such issues, the circular said that the Rule 20 (ii) of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct)

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Man absconding for 14 years in J&K murder case held from Punjab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A man, who was absconding in a murder case in Jammu and Kashmir for the last 14 years, was arrested from Punjab, the Delhi Police said on Tuesday.

The family of accused Inderpreet Singh, the son of a retired jail superintendent,

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'Kishtwar North India's power hub'

Modi gave Gujar community priority, status, dignity: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing public rally in remote hilly Mughal Maidan region of district Kishtwar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and BJP Candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency said here on Tuesday that while

Congress led governments in the past exploited the Gujar community for their vote bank interests, it is for the first time after independence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the

Gujjar community in Jammu & Kashmir priority along with political status by providing political reservation for contesting elections and also given them dignity by holding them in the same esteem as any other section of the society.

Addressing a massive public rally in the remote hilly region of Mughal Maidan on the banks of river Chenab in district Kishtwar, Dr Jitendra said, he was touched by the large number of women and members of the Gujar community who had added zest and colour to this programme.

While the earlier Congress governments had discarded the Gujar community and left them to fend for themselves and lead a life of homelessness, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is Prime Minister Modi who came up with the sensitive idea

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There will be no religious discrimination in my Govt: Azad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Making a firm commitment to enact laws guaranteeing land and job protection for people of Jammu and Kashmir, if voted to power, Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Tuesday said that there will be no discrimination with anyone and opportunities of progress will be available to all, irrespective of religion, region or caste.

Addressing the workers in Kathua after filing of nomination papers by Vice



Chairman DPAP G.M. Saroori for the Udhampur-Doda Lok Sabha Constituency, Azad under

scored the pivotal role of an effective campaign in ensuring the success of his party candidate.

He emphasized the need for unity and brotherhood among people, urging voters to support development and progress.

He said, "When an injured person goes to the hospital for blood, doctors don't see his or her religion. Then why do we see religion in politics? We must vote for the MP candidate who will raise public issues in Parliament." Azad stressed the

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BRO connects strategic road connecting Manali to Leh, provides third axis

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has connected the 298-km strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in the Union Territory of Ladakh, an official said on Tuesday.

The road will connect Manali to Leh through Darcha and Nimmu on Kargil Leh national highway, providing a third axis apart from Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh which connect Ladakh to the hinterland, an official spokesman said.

He said the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road derives its strategic importance from the fact that it is not only shorter vis-a-vis the other two axes, but crosses only one pass -- Shinkun La (16,558 feet) -- on which tunnel work by the BRO is about to start.

"This will result in the road having all-weather connectivity to the Ladakh region. The connectivity

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 28.5°C Min: 16.6°C

Humidity
Max: 65 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 21.4°C Min: 5.4°C

Humidity
Max: 53 Min: 31

Sunset: 18:46 Hours
Sunrise: 06:26 Hours

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