

Vol. 30 Issue 79 • Jammu • Saturday • March 22, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27 Or Jitendra releases 'India Bioeconomy

UU Report', 16 fold growth in 10 years

Politicians first like British divided Hindu in castes & now are dividing Indians in name of Religion

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh **Jammu District Softball Championship begins**

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Modi Govt has zero tolerance towards terrorism: Amit Shah

"Article 370 was basis of separatism in Kashmir"

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government has zero tolerance policy towards terrorism, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday as he also asserted that Naxalism will end in India by March 2026.

Replying to a debate in Rajya Sabha on the working of the home ministry, he said the Narendra Modi government fulfilled the dream of the architects of the Constitution by abrogating Article 370

"Article 370 was the basis of separatism in Kashmir. But I also thank the architects of the Constitution. they made the provision temporary, and the way to abrogate it was also included in the Article," Shah said.

"But due to vote bank poliand stubbornness, Article 370 continued. On August 5, 2019, Article 370 was abrogated. The dream of



70 pc reductions in deaths due to terrorism in J&K, grassroots level democracy established, 40,000 jobs provided during 2019-24

Constitution, was that there can't be two heads, two constitutions and two flags in the country," he said.

rorism in Jammu and Kashmir, left-wing extremism, and insurgency in biggest challenges for India. "Around 92,000 citizens were killed in four decades. No organised effort was done to deal with these, and the

The home minister said the Modi government has zero tolerance for terrorism.

Modi government did it," he

He also said the number of deaths of civilians and security personnel in terror incidents has drastically come down, while there has been zero incidents of stone pelting in the Kashmir valley.

"There has been a 70 per cent reduction in deaths due to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir during Modi government; terror incidents too fell sharply," he said.

Shah also said grassroots level democracy has been established in Jammu and Kashmir by successfully holding elections in urban and rural local bodies.

We must ensure equal opportunity for Divyangjan: LG
Assures commitment to build more accessible, inclusive J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday attended the Purple Fest 2025, at Raj Bhawan. The event was aimed at fostering awareness, inclusion and empowerment for Divyangjan.

In his address, Lieutenant Governor lauded the resilience and talents of Divyangjan. He assured them of his commitment to build a more accessible and inclusive Jammu Kashmir

"We have worked with dedication for empowerment of Divvangian and major initiatives have been taken in the last few years to ensure dignity, rights and well-being of Divyangjan. I am fully committed about their integration in every aspect of social, economic and cultural life, the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the key initia-

Sushma Chauhan appointed as Jt Secy, MHA;



and empowerment for Divyangjan in Jammu.

tives taken by the government to create a supportive environment for Divyangian, fostering their innate potential and enabling them to lead a dignified life.

"We must ensure equal opportunity for Divyangjan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi through reforms made sure that every public or private establishment should follow the equal opportunity policy and systematically

>> LG attends Purple Fest aimed at fostering awareness, inclusion, empowerment for Divyangjan

Lauds resilience, talents of Divvangian

Says, we have worked with dedication for empowerment of Divyangjan; major initiatives have been taken in last few years to ensure dignity, rights and well-being of Divyangian

I am fully committed about Divyangian's integration in every aspect of social, economic, cultural life

Divyangian have immense potential to achieve extraordinary success in life; they are gifted and dedicated to bring positive change CONTD ON PAGE 9

Stern action will be taken against those involved in narco-terrorism: DGP

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief Nalin Prabhat said on Friday that



those involved in narco-terrorism would be dealt with

"Stern action will be taken against those involved in narco-terrorism," Prabhat, the Director General of

Three arrested under PSA for anti-national activities

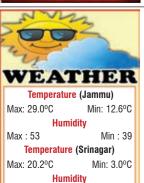
STATE TIMES NEWS KATHUA: Police has arrest-

ed three persons under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for their alleged involvement in criminal and anti-national activities in Jammu and Kathua districts. While two of them were

booked under for alleged anti-national activities in the Kathua district, the third accused was booked for his involvement in

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Sunset: 18:42 Hours

Sunrise: 06:33 Hours

Min: 22

Max: 64

Police (DGP) of J-K, told reporters after a public Darbar in Pulwama district in South Kashmir.

When asked if there is a possibility of an increase in infiltration attempts along the Line of Control (LoC) due to the melting snow as sumapproaches, Prabhat dismissed the concerns. "The temperature is

increasing, but infiltration is not increasing," he added.

The DGP also mentioned that more public darbars will be held in the coming days across the Union Territory

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch

(CB) on Friday booked pro-

prietor of a private security

agency then operating in

Jammu division under the

name and style of Unique

Sanitation and Outsourcing

Services for gaining illegal

entry in government tenders

by using forged PSARA cer-

"The accused owner of

Unique Sanitation and

Outsourcing Services namely

Ram Sharma, son of Amar

Nath Sharma, resident of

Jeevan Nagar, Gadigarh,

Jammu has gained illegal

entry in government tenders

tificate.

Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a series of significant appointments at the Joint Secretary and Joint Secretary equivalent levels across various ministries and departments. These appointments bring in seasoned offifrom the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Revenue Service (IRS), and other central services to key positions, reflecting the government's focus on leveraging experienced talent for national development.

Sushma Chauhan, a senior IAS officer from the J&K-AGMUT cadre, has been

CB registers FIR against private security agency's

proprietor for illegal entry in Govt tenders

held at Government College

Technology (GCET) Jammu,

Government Medical College

(GMC) Rajouri and other

departments by modifying,

forging and using PSARA

certificate issued to some

other agency under Private

Regulation Act 2005." CB

"Crime Branch has received

a written complaint from

Imran Khan, son of John

Mohd, resident of Bathindi,

Sharma wherein it is alleged

that the accused has modi-

fied/forced PSARA certifi-

against

Security

Jammu

official said.

and

Agencies

Ram

Engineering

Raghav Langer Secy, NMC **STATE TIMES NEWS** tion, Sushma Chauhan, is wife JAMMU: The Appointments

Sushma Chauhan

appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). A 2009-batch officer of the erstwhile J&K cadre, Chauhan has an extensive track record in public administration, having previ-

cate submitted by some other

agency and gained illegal

entry in government tenders

thereby committing fraud

and forgery punishable

As confirmed by Senior

Superintendent of Police

Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh

a case FIR No. 18/2025 has

been registered on the basis

of the contents of the com-

plaint and preliminary verifi-

cation report submitted by

the enquiry officer and inves-

tigation has been entrusted

to a senior investigating offi-

cer of the rank of Deputy SP

for thorough probe under

under law," official said.

Commissioner Jammu. She was recently posted as Director in the MHA, where her contributions were widely acknowledged. In her new role, she will oversee critical initiatives and policies under

Raghav Langer

Terror associate detained under PSA

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police on Friday detained a suspected terror associate under the Public Safety Act in Udhampur district, officials

Faroog Ahmed is a resident of Sadrota village in Lohai Malhar tehsil, they said.

Ahmed was allegedly involved in providing logistical support to terror groups and acted as a guide and facilitator for these organisations, they added.

The authorities cited strong evidence and past records to confirm his role in aiding and assisting terror

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of IAS officer of 2008 batch Simrandeep Singh, who had qualified the UPSC civil services exam at a very young age.

The ACC has also approved the appointment of Raghav Langer, IAS (UD:2009), as Secretary, National Medical Commission (NMC), under the Department of Health & Family Welfare. Langer will serve in this capacity at the Secretary level. According to the official order, his tenure will extend up to October 3, 2025, or until further instructions, whichever is earlier. With a strong background in governance, Langer will play a pivotal role in shaptory frameworks within the NMC. Son of the soil, Raghav

Langer also served as Commissioner Divisional Jammu. He is a distinguished IAS officer of 2009 batch, who has carved a niche for himself through his exemplary leadership and administrative acu-

These appointments signify the government's ongoing commitment to enhancing administrative efficiency and governance across key sectors. The officers are expected to bring their expertise and vision to their new roles, ensuring effective policy implementation and service

Tulip garden in Srinagar to open on March 26 STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

between the Dal lake and the Zabarwan hills, Asia's largest Tulip garden will open for the public on March 26 to mark the beginning of the tourism season in the Kashmir valley, officials said on Friday.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden was set up by Ghulam Nabi Azad, the then-chief minister of the erstwhile state in 2007, to advance the tourist season in Jammu and Kashmir that was earlier limited to summers and win-

Formerly known as Siraj Bagh, the garden will be opened to the public as

Police foils PHE daily wagers' protest march to CM residence

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday foiled a protest march by daily wagers of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department supporting their demand for regularization and resorted to minor cane charges to prevent them from moving towards Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's residence here.

The daily wagers have called for a 72-hour strike. Raising slogans like "Omar

Abdullah hosh mein aaoo -hosh mein aaoo", hundreds of daily wagers under the banner of the PHE Employees Union marched toward the

Prioritise criminal appeals against conviction of

aged accused on bail: SC



PHE employees during the protest rally in Jammu.

chief minister's residence. The daily wagers were

protesting against the government's delay in addressing their regularization and pending wage release.

The police had set up barricades, some of which were crossed by the protesters. This prompted the police to use mild cane charges.

JeM man from J&K held for Hedgewar memorial recce denied bail

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Friday denied bail to a Jammu and Kashmir resident accused of being a Jaish-e-Mohammed operative and conducting a recce of the Nagpur-based memorial of RSS founder Dr KB Hedgewar noting he had done acts that would disturb the "peace and tranquillity of

The HC's Nagpur bench said accused Raees Ahmed Sheikh Asadulla Sheikh was an "overground worker of banned terrorist organization JeM and he was providing logistic support to the

said organisation". Sheikh was arrested in 2022 for allegedly conducting a reconnaissance of Dr

Hedgewar Smruti Mandir, memorial of the the Rashtriva Swavamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder, located in Nagpur's Reshimbag area, on September 15, 2021

It is alleged that Sheikh passed on information, after conducting the recce, to his handler in Pakistan.

He had moved the HC earlier this month seeking bail citing lack of evidence. A division bench of Justices

Nitin Survawanshi and Pravin Patil rejected the bail plea noting that there was prima facie evidence against him.

"The appellant (Sheikh) was preparing to commit an act, which would

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STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The Supreme

Court has said the old age of an accused and a long lapse of time from the commission of an offence can always be a ground to give priority to appeals against the conviction of those on bail. Taking note of the huge

pendency of criminal appeals against conviction and acquittal in high courts, the apex court said a right balance has to be struck by taking up for hearing some

of the old criminal appeals against conviction, where the accused are on bail. "Therefore, it is desirable that certain categories of

appeals against conviction,

where the accused are on

bail, should be given priority," a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih said.

It said considering the pendency of very old criminal appeals, priority is usually given to hearing appeals where the accused are in

The bench noted that the

appeals against conviction, where the accused are on bail, take a back seat.

"The old age of the accused and the long lapse of time from the commission of the offence can always be a ground available to give

some priority to the appeals against the conviction of the accused on bail," it said.

The bench said if appeals against conviction, where accused are on bail and especially where a life term has been imposed, are heard after a decade or more from their filing and are dismissed, the question of sending the accused back to jail after a long period arises.

"In all the major high courts in our country, there is a huge pendency of criminal appeals against conviction and acquittal," the bench said in the post script of its March 20 judgment.

The verdict came on an appeal filed by the state of Madhya Pradesh challeng-

ing an August 2017 verdict of the high court.

The high court had set aside the conviction of some people for murder and convicted them under the second part of section 304 of the Indian Penal Code Section 304 of the IPC

deals with the punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The apex court said the high court had noted that the incident was of 1989 and one of the respondents was nearly 80 years old, while four others were above the age of 70.

The high court had let them off with the sentence ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9