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Div Com reviews land acquisition cases of newly sanctioned colleges
■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Sanjeev Verma on Tuesday convened a meeting to review the land acquisition cases of newly sanctioned degree colleges in Jammu division and other related issues.

Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division along with concerned officers joined the meeting through video conferencing whereas ADC Jammu, Rishpal Singh, Sub Divisional Magistrates, R S Pura, Marh, Akhnor, Chowki Choura, Principals of GDCs, Nagrota,
■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

US drops 40 tons of bombs on IS-'infested' island in Iraq
■ **AGENCY**
BAGHDAD: The US-led coalition says American warplanes have dropped 36,000 kilograms (40 tons) of bombs on an island in the Tigris River "infested" with members of the Islamic State group.

The coalition said F15 and F35 warplanes took part in the bombing on Qamus Island in the central province of Salaheddine, north of the capital Baghdad.
Tuesday's attack is part of operations carried out by Iraqi forces and the US-led coalition against IS,
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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 35.1°C Min: 26.7°C
Humidity
Max: 77 Min: 69
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 31.7°C Min: 13.2°C
Humidity
Max: 68 Min: 32
Sunset : 18:45 Hours
Sunrise : 06:13 Hours

India rejects Pak demand for UNHRC probe on Kashmir

'Revocation of J&K's special status sovereign decision'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
GENEVA: India on Tuesday said the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status was within the country's sovereign right and entirely an internal matter, rejecting Pakistan's "hysterical statements" and its demand for an international probe by the UNHRC into the Kashmir issue.



First Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Vimarsh Aryan at the 42nd session of the UNHRC at Geneva.

Exercising its right to respond to Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's statements at the 42nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council here, First Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Vimarsh Aryan said Article 370 was a temporary provision of the Indian Constitution.

The recent modification of Article 370 was "within our sovereign right and entirely an internal matter of India", the diplomat said.

"We are not surprised at Pakistan's hysterical statements with false narratives aimed to politicise and polarise this forum (UNHRC). Pakistan realises that our decision cuts away ground from under its feet by creating obstacles in its continuing sponsorship of cross-border terrorism," he said.

Amidst Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's provocative anti-India statements, Aryan said, "Some Pakistani leaders have even gone as far as calling for jihad to encourage violence in Jammu and Kashmir and third countries to create a picture of genocide, which even they know is far from reality."

"The Indian diplomat from Jammu and Kashmir said Pakistan has the people of

Pak describes J&K as 'Indian State'

GENEVA: Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday described Jammu and Kashmir as an "Indian state", soon after he attacked India at the UNHRC here for revoking the special status of the state.

Pakistan has so far been referring to Jammu and Kashmir who are united to preserve the core values of democracy and Islamabad has "no locus standi to talk on Kashmir".

He said at the UNHRC forum, Pakistan has pretended to speak as the voice of the global community on human rights.

"But the world cannot be fooled. Pakistan's gory record of human rights violations in Kashmir is well known. The Pakistani army heavy shelled forward posts and civilian areas along LoC in Mankote, Balakote and Mendhar sectors of Poonch district, they said.

He said the dilution of Article 370 will accelerate the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir as several central schemes and laws, which could not be implemented there earlier will be enforced, including the ones dealing with strengthening local bodies.

Interacting with a delegation of a 'Sarpanchs' (village heads) and 'Panchs' (panchayat members) from Jammu and Kashmir here, Naidu pointed out that Article 370 was only a temporary and transitory provision in the Constitution.

"The vice president said that talks with Pakistan would be held only on PoK and asserted that the safety, security and integrity of the nation were paramount for every Indian," a



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Tuesday. He said the dilution of Article 370 will accelerate the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir as several central schemes and laws, which could not be implemented there earlier will be enforced, including the ones dealing with strengthening local bodies.

6 houses damaged, 5 animals killed in Pak shelling in Poonch

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Six houses were partially damaged and five animals were killed in heavy shelling on civilian villages along LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district early on Tuesday, officials said.

The Pakistani army heavy shelled forward posts and civilian areas along LoC in Mankote, Balakote and Mendhar sectors of Poonch district, they said.

In the firing and shelling, six houses were partially damaged and five animals were killed. Thirteen animals were injured, they said. In the firing

posts and civilian areas along LoC in Mankote, Balakote and Mendhar sectors of Poonch district, they said.

Congress supports Govt handling Pak at UN

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday said the Indian Government is capable of handling Pakistan at the United Nations and it stands with it in solidarity to tackle "manipulative actions" of the neighbouring country seeking to internationalise Kashmir.

country and let me also say that whatever tactics Pakistan is resorting to, I am sure the Indian Government is capable of handling the same at the podium of United Nations. The Congress party stands in solidarity with the government in tackling any such manoeuvres or manipulative actions of Pakistan," she said at a press conference.

Congress spokesperson Ragini Naik said it is also the government's responsibility to tackle Pakistan when it uses the statements of opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi on Kashmir to defame India.

"Pakistan wants to internationalise Kashmir issue so as to present India in bad light and hurt its image. The atrocities and violations of human rights in Pakistan are known the world over. The Congress wants that the Government of India should give befitting reply to Pakistan and it is fully capable to do that," she said, adding that such matters should not be politicised.

"Kashmir is an inseparable and indispensable part of our country and it is also the government's responsibility to tackle Pakistan when it uses the statements of opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi on Kashmir to defame India.

"If Pakistan calls names to our prime minister or presents the statements of opposition leaders in such a way so as to gain politically, then it is the government's responsibility to tackle it," she said.

"Kashmir is an inseparable and indispensable part of our country and it is also the government's responsibility to tackle Pakistan when it uses the statements of opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi on Kashmir to defame India.

"The Indian diplomat from Jammu and Kashmir said Pakistan has the people of

Eight LeT 'terrorist associates' arrested for threatening locals in Sopore

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Eight Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) "terrorist associates" were arrested from Sopore area of Kashmir's Baramulla district for allegedly circulating posters to locals to threaten and intimidate them at the behest of terrorists, police said on Tuesday.

parts of Kashmir which give a message of "civil curfew" and ask people to enforce civil "disobedience".

"Police in Sopore have arrested eight terrorist associates who were involved in threatening and intimidating locals via publishing of posters," a police spokesperson said.

He said they were arrested following the appearance of these posters in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district in which locals were threatened and intimidated.

Posters have come up in

The spokesperson said according to the initial investigation, it is learnt that eight terrorist associates -- Ajjaz Mir, Omar Mir, Tawseef Najar, Imityaz Najar, Omar Akbar, Faizan Latief, Danish Habib and Showkat Ahmad

to publish "threatening posters", he added.

Police have recovered computers and other items that were used for drafting and publishing the posters, and all the incriminating material, including the computers, have been seized, the spokesperson said.

Muharram procession taken out in Jammu

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Procession of 10th Muharram Ashura was taken out from Ziyarat Peer Mitha under the banner of A n j u m a n - e - I m a m i a , Jammu.



Ashura procession taken out in Jammu on Tuesday.

A Shabihey Zuljinah and a procession of Ashura were taken out where thousands of mourners across the region participated to pay homage to the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, grandson of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad.

A brief Majlis was delivered by Molana Syed Jalal Haider Naqvi Secretary Ulema-e-Hind New Delhi.

In his address, he stressed upon the teachings of Imam Hussain.

After passing through the traditional route the procession culminated at Karbala Complex Wazarat Road where Majlis Sham-e-

merged with the main procession at Imam Bargah Sofi Shah Peer Mitha.

Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, was the day when Imam Hussain and his 72 companions laid their lives and saved humanity and the values of Islam, battling against the tyranny of Yazid, the ruler and Caliph of Muslim Ummah at that time.

PoK our next agenda: Dr Jitendra

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday the biggest achievement during the 100 days of the Modi government's second term is the scrapping of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and "our next agenda" is making PoK an integral part of India.

"Our next agenda is retrieving PoK" and making it an integral part of India, he asserted.

Repeating to a question on the vicious campaign launched by Pakistan on abrogation of Article 370, the Union minister in the PMO said the world view is aligned with India.

As part of a nationwide campaign to highlight the 100 days of bold initiatives by the National Democratic Alliance government, Singh said "had (Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad) Mookerjee been alive, he would have declared 'go and tell the world that Modi and Amit Shah have abrogated Article 370'."

Indo-Pak tensions 'less heated' now than 2 weeks ago: Trump

■ **AGENCY**
WASHINGTON: India-Pakistan tensions over Kashmir are "a little bit less heated" now compared to two weeks ago, US President Donald Trump has said.

think (it) is a little bit less heated right now than (what) was two weeks ago," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday.

Trump also reiterated his offer to help India and Pakistan in easing the bilateral tensions over Kashmir, if they want.

"I got along with both countries very well," Trump said while responding to a question on his assessment of the situation between India and Pakistan.

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